

No blame verdict on Biko death brings wide protests

A South African magistrate yesterday cleared the security police of blame for the death of Steve Biko, the detained black activist. After the inquest verdict was announced, demonstrators outside the court shouted: "Our only sin is that we

are black". Earlier a brother and cousin of Mr Biko were detained for a time in police raids in Soweto township, Johannesburg. The inquest verdict was denounced in London and Washington as incredible.

23 MPs denounce 'murder'

from Nicholas Ashford and
David Bell

No one could be found criminally responsible for the death in detention of Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, the presiding magistrate at the inquest ruled today.

The magistrate, Mr Martinus Prins, said that Mr Biko's death "could not be attributed to any act or omission amounting to a criminal offence on the part of any person."

His ruling, given after 15 days of hearings, was delivered in Afrikaans and then in English, and lasted a mere three minutes.

There was a stunned silence and then a gasp of disbelief from the two hundred people, most of them black, who were in court to hear the verdict. Immediately afterwards groups of blacks gathered outside the Old Synagogue, where the inquest had been held, to sing freedom songs. "They have killed Steve Biko," they chanted. "What have we done? Our only sin is that we are black."

Earlier two members of the Biko family as well as 11 other Africans, some of them detained by the police in pre-dawn raids in Soweto, the huge black township, just outside Johannesburg.

Mr Biko's brother Khaya, who had been attending the inquest each day, and his cousin, Mr Solomon Biko, were later reported to have been freed.

Many of the others were associated with the Black Consciousness organization which was banned on October 19. They included two Anglican priests, the Rev Stephen Machane, Montieane and the Rev Jeffrey Maselane, and two leaders of the recently formed South African Communist Party, Mr Lucas Ngweni and Mr M. J. K. Molope.

According to Mr Shon Cherry, the Biko family attorney, it was believed the detentions were in connection with a pamphlet issued by the Soweto Action Committee, which called on township residents not to participate in the new community

councils proposed by the Government, and to refuse to pay rent increases which were introduced yesterday.

In his ruling the magistrate, who sat with two medical assessors, formally accepted the findings of a post-mortem report that Mr Biko died from extensive brain injuries followed by complications leading to uraemia and renal failure. He said the main injury was apparently sustained on the morning of September 7 when Mr Biko was allegedly involved in a scuffle with the police.

According to evidence submitted by members of the Port Elizabeth security police who interrogated him, Mr Biko went "berserk" and had to be forcibly subdued. The police suggested that Mr Biko probably sustained his head injury during the struggle that ensued.

The only member of Mr Biko's family in court to hear the ruling today was his widow, Mrs Ntsiki Biko. She declined to comment on it. His mother, who had been present throughout the inquest, was said to be too tired to attend today.

Counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kenridge, was also absent, but this is customary practice for a senior counsel when a ruling is given.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said the record of the inquest would now go to the Attorney General of Transvaal as a matter of routine. It was up to the Attorney

General to decide whether there should be any further investigation or any other action taken.

It is uncertain whether the magistrate will make public at a later stage the reasons for his ruling. Mr Cherry said, he hoped he would, but there is nothing under South African law which obliges him to do so.

No form of appeal is open to the Biko family, although they could seek a review of the magistrate's findings before a Supreme Court Judge. Lawyers would first have to show that no reasonable judicial officer could have come to the same conclusion as the presiding magistrate on the basis of the known evidence. It is thought most unlikely that a review will be sought.

It is possible, however, that there could be further inquiry into the conduct of the three Port Elizabeth doctors involved in the case. Under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act it is obligatory for a judicial officer in a case involving the conduct of practitioners to consider whether or not to forward the papers to the Medical and Dental Council.

Mr Biko was the twentieth person to have died while being held in police custody since March last year.

In his final submission to the magistrate, yesterday Mr Kenridge argued that the only reasonable verdict was to find that Mr Biko's death was due to criminal assault by one or more of the eight security policemen in whose custody he was held in Port Elizabeth.

The fact that the magistrate's ruling exonerated the police provoked immediate criticism from both blacks and whites attending the inquest. One of the diplomatic observers who was present said it was "totally cynical".

London: In the Commons, 23 MPs signed a motion condemning "the murder of Steve Biko. The British Council of Churches said the verdict was incredible.

Washington: The State Department expressed shock at the arrest of relatives of Mr Biko, and termed the inquest finding "inconceivable".

Vorster victory speech, page 5
Leading article, page 15



Mr Biko after the verdict yesterday.



First official visit: Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, holding a tarmac press conference at Heathrow yesterday at the beginning of his official visit to Britain, the first by an Israeli premier. On Mr Begin's right is his wife. With them are Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary (right), and Mrs Owen.

Mr Begin will discuss his latest proposals for a peace treaty with Egypt

and other Arab states when his talks with Mr Callaghan open at Downing Street this evening. Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes:

At Heathrow Mr Begin said he brought from Jerusalem "a suggestion to renew the covenant (of the Balfour Declaration) signed between the British and Jewish people 60 years ago on that unforgettable day, November 2, 1917."

This was taken to be a figurative

expression, according to British sources, as no communiqué is expected to be issued after the talks, which continue tomorrow, concluding with a dinner given by Mr and Mrs Begin for their British hosts on Sunday evening to mark the end of the official visit.

Mr Begin will spend Monday and Tuesday meeting leaders of the Jewish community and MPs. He leaves on Wednesday. Tripoli summit, page 4

£130m nuclear station may be written off

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A £130m atomic power station that was brought into operation less than a year ago by the South of Scotland Electricity Board, is also suffering technical snags, but for different reasons.

The trouble at Hunterston started in October, when the generating board disclosed that salt water had entered the system. The reactor was shut down for an investigation, which is still continuing.

Mr Roy Berridge, chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board, said yesterday that a provisional assessment indicated that the reactor could be out of operation for a year and that repairs could cost £14m.

He said the costs would include up to £3m this year for running alternative plants and up to £8m next year. Electricity tariffs would have to rise by between 1 and 2 per cent.

Mr Berridge added: "That, of course, is a worse situation than we are at the moment. In the current financial year this incident will not put us into a loss-making situation and we are not making any money from the reactor."

The only other new advanced gas cooled reactor brought into operation by the Central Electricity Generating Board, at Hinkley Point B, Somerset, has also suffered technical snags, but for different reasons.

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TUC leaves firemen to fight on alone

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders turned their backs yesterday on a confrontation with the Government over its 10 per cent wage restraint guidelines and left the striking firemen to battle on alone for pay rises in breach of the Government's policy.

The TUC's inner cabinet, its finance and general purposes committee, decided unanimously that "the Government is not likely to be deflected from its present course of action", rejected demands for a campaign against the pay policy, and urged the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to seek a settlement with the employers on the lines proposed by the Prime Minister earlier this week.

The tacit acceptance of the incomes policy is bound to deter other groups of workers from seeking to break through the 10 per cent limit. Some firemen's leaders accused the TUC of treachery and of pandering to the Administration.

In five hours of talks at Congress House in London FBU leaders had sought to enlist the help of the TUC in the event of unforeseen economic difficulties. In a general attack on what they saw as the Government's inflexible attitude towards pay, the 10 per cent limit on earnings, firemen argued, was being imposed on unions with the force of legislation.

But the TUC committee did not support their request for a positive campaign against the incomes policy. More than that, the union leaders take the view that a return to free collective bargaining recognizes that not only unions but also employers, including the government, enjoy the same freedom, enjoy the same response to my application. I hope that it will become possible not only for me, but also for other artists to have the opportunity to unfold artistically, and I hope also that the Russian artist and the Russian heart will be more understood in the West."

Mr Kremer, born in Riga 30 years ago, said he was ethnically a Latvian, who grew up in the Soviet Republic of Latvia, and have 30 years of association with that region. My mother came from Karlsruhe. My Jewish father came from the Baltic. My grandfather, whose violin I play, came from Gieburg. For the past 11 years I have lived in Moscow.

He has chosen a path consistent with that of most young Soviet violin virtuosi, who generally concentrate on the romantic repertoire and bravura pyrotechnics. Mr Kremer makes it a principle to include in every recital programme a contemporary work.

KGK question writer, page 5

Soviet violinist is hoping to stay in West

From Paul Moor
Berlin, Dec 2

Gidon Kremer, the brilliant young Soviet violinist, winding up a tour of West Germany and Austria, has appeared on West German television to discuss his application to the Soviet Ministry of Culture for permission to spend the next two years in the West.

He has made his tour as soloist with the Vilna Chamber Orchestra, which will give its final concert on Tuesday week. Mr Kremer's meteoric rise to world fame as a virtuoso began in 1970 when he won the Tchaikovsky first prize in Moscow. He enjoys particular success in Germany.

If Mr Kremer does remain in the West, he would not be the first prominent Soviet musician to do so. The pianist, Vladimir Ashkenazy, after marrying an Icelandic music student in Moscow, successfully applied to the Soviet Minister of Culture for permission to live abroad. He subsequently acquired Icelandic citizenship and lives in London.

Mstislav Rostropovich, the great cellist and his wife, the soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, had strong artistic differences with Soviet cultural functionaries and now live in the West but remain Soviet citizens.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra's new conductor, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, who has held a regular conducting post in Stockholm, continues to maintain his primary residence in Moscow.

On West German television Mr Kremer took exception to having the term "dissident" applied to him. "I should like to avoid that word," he said, "because people use it with different meanings."

If he received "a positive response to my application, I hope that it will become possible not only for me, but also for other artists to have the opportunity to unfold artistically, and I hope also that the Russian artist and the Russian heart will be more understood in the West."

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KGK question writer, page 5

Desert air crash kills 56 pilgrims

Paris, Dec 2.—Fifty-six people died and 46 were injured when an aircraft carrying Libyan pilgrims home from Mecca crashed today in a desert near Benghazi, according to a Libyan news agency dispatch monitored here.

The aircraft, a Soviet-built Tupolev, was carrying 165 passengers and a crew of six. It was said to be out of fuel.—Agence France-Press.

Unions to press for inquiry into structure of Labour Party

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Leading trade unions are to press Labour policy-makers next week for a full inquiry into the organization and structure of the party.

The time Minister is sympathetic to the demand, which has been made by such unions as the General and Municipal Workers' and the Transport and General Workers'.

Mr Callaghan has previously questioned the structure of the party, believing that there should be greater regional representation and that the method of election to the national executive committee, the custodian of conference decisions, should be examined.

The issue will be raised on Monday at a meeting of the party's organization committee, when members will consider the demand from Mr David Barnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

They are the Post Office Engineering Union, the Union of Shop Assistants, the Amalgamated Society of Boiler-makers, Shipwrights, Blacksmiths and Structural Workers, whose president, Mr John Chalmers, is a former chairman

of the party, and the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

The letter from the transport workers does not actually seek an inquiry but states, somewhat ambiguously, that there should be greater democracy in the party. None the less, it is being construed as influential backing for Mr Barnett, who first raised the issue at the party conference in October.

NEC members, many of whom are on the left of the party, do not wish for an inquiry, successfully asked the conference to remit his motion for further consideration. But in view of union support the issue

is being raised earlier than they thought.

Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, which backs the inquiry, is chairman of the party's NEC. He said it was being said last night that a vote to recommend an inquiry could be very close.

If it is carried, the recommendation would have to be ratified by the full national executive, which would find itself involved in a heated argument.

It is understood that Mr Barnett would like the composition of any inquiry to include people outside the NEC, which has not been the case with previous investigations, and the proposition is bound to annoy left-wing members of the NEC.

Union leaders are particularly concerned about the party's finances. Mr Norman Atkinson, the party treasurer, is stating privately that it will need £3m over the next two years, especially to pay for the new party headquarters, and it will be the unions who will be asked to find most of the money.

It is feared by some, however, that an inquiry could place in question the block vote which the unions can operate at the party conferences. They would be reluctant to see that disappear.

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Fares rise deferred for a week

After protests from booking office staff, British Rail has postponed fares rises of between 14 and 16 per cent planned for January 1. They will take effect on January 8.

Mr Norman Hitchen, assistant general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, said: "We are the front line staff who have to bear the criticism from the travelling public."

"It was part of our argument to British Rail that people will not be in the best frame of mind to face fare increases as they return to work after the new year festivities."

"Our staff would have to stand sarcasm and in some cases abuse from passengers."

The January 1 date would also have meant much extra preparation during the holiday.

British Rail said the decision would give more time to prepare the new fares and overcome the difficulty of the changeover's taking place during a Bank holiday. It denied that the date had been changed because commuters might be angry. "It was simply because the timetable was tight."

Passes closed

Geneva, Dec 2.—Heavy snow-falls have closed most of Switzerland's main Alpine passes. Chais are required for those still open to traffic in the daytime. The Swiss Touring Club said today.—UPI.

UK reserves up by \$183m

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by \$183m to \$20,394m (£11,227m) during November. This is a new record but the increase was the smallest for six months and in marked contrast to the rises when the Bank of England was taking in dollars in an attempt to hold down the value of the pound.

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Nomination hopes

Already leaders in the United States Republican Party are turning their thoughts to the presidential nominations for 1980. Senator Robert Dole, who stood for Vice-President in last year's election, is thinking of standing for President.

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Tories' EEC policy

Mrs Thatcher indicated during a press conference to mark the end of her two-day visit to Brussels that a Conservative government would pursue a policy towards the EEC similar in essentials to that of the Labour Government.

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Appeal on racialism

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, called on students to assist the Government to combat the influence of racialist organizations among young people, especially school pupils. She was speaking at the conference of the National Union of Students.

Page 2

Anglo-Irish fish pact

Britain and the Irish Republic have agreed to fight together to protect their fishermen against infringements of EEC fishing rules.

Page 3

'Mirror' journalists go back to work

Journalists at the Daily Mirror and Daily Mail agreed to work normally after pay disputes produced a production. The Mirror management stopped publication 13 days ago, and the Mail appeared last yesterday and with fewer pages than planned. Talks on both pay claims continue. The Mirror dispute is estimated to have cost the company £3.5m gross Page 2

Poor Packer gate

A little over 2,000 people were at the Melbourne ground for the start of Kerry Packer's world series match between an Australian XI and a West Indian side. At close of play the West Indians had scored 47 for two in reply to the Australians' 256.

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Record price for filly

Mrs McArdy, the winner of this year's 1,000 Guineas, was sold for the record sum of 154,000 guineas at Newmarket Sales. She will now race at Halesham in the United States before being mated next year Page 7

Page 7

Mortgage hint: The Government would like to see another cut in the mortgage interest rate.

Page 3

Paris: M. Chirac, the Gaullist leader, has aroused speculation by asking to see the President on Wednesday.

Page 4

Tel Aviv: An Israeli journalist arriving in Cairo without a visa is enthusiastically greeted with a kiss on each cheek.

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Photographer 'saw Rhodesia atrocities'

An American press photographer who was on a three-day mission last September has said that he saw the soldiers burn blacks, severely beat a local black politician and torture his wife and daughter Page 5

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Leader page 15

Letters: On European elections, from Lord Walsley, and Mr Brian Ellis; on Christmas, from the Reverend Dr Rowan Williams, and others.

Leading articles: The Biko case; Secret Service records; Scottish devolution.

Features, pages 8-14

George Hutchinson asks why the City is being taken in by Labour; David Spiller on the change in Mr Begin.

Sport, pages 5-7

Cricket: England draw first match in Pakistan; Football: England's fate in World Cup decided today; Racing: Michael Seely previews Sandown Park.

Paperbacks, page 11

Barry Norman reconsiders Lifenews. One-Upmanship and Commemorative by Stephen Harcourt Stone describes a meeting between a unit trust group's managers and its investors; Vera Di Palma discusses further ways to pass on a house without attracting capital transfer tax.

Arts, page 12

William Mann sees Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro at Covent Garden; see Joan Chissell reviews the Susan Bradshaw-Richard Rodney Bennett piano duets at Wigmore Hall.

Obituary, page 16

Wing Commander Harry Day; Mr J. Stuart Daniel; Mr Knud Jespersen.

Stock markets: Shares ended the week strongly and the FT Index closed 6.9 up at 486.7, a gain of 2.7 on the week.

Personal investment and finance.

Harvest Stone describes a meeting between a unit trust group's managers and its investors; Vera Di Palma discusses further ways to pass on a house without attracting capital transfer tax.

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Bermuda state of emergency

From Michael Leapman
Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 2

Sir Peter Ramsbotham, Governor of Bermuda, declared a state of emergency today after the execution at dawn of two black terrorists, one of whom had murdered a former Governor.

A curfew was imposed from 6 pm to 6 am to prevent a recurrence of last night's prolonged rioting by some 500 people, which caused serious damage to property although there were no reports of serious injuries.

The executions followed the failure of the two men's final appeals for clemency, including one to the Queen.

The two men were Erskine Burrows, aged 33, and Larry Tacklyn, aged 26. Burrows was convicted of the 1973 murder of the Governor, Sir Richard Sharples, and his aide de camp, and the killing of a police commissioner a year earlier.

Both men were convicted of killing two supermarket executives in an armed robbery in 1973.

Roadblocks were set up this morning, two miles away from the Casemates prison, on the western end of the island, while the executions were carried out.

Last night's riots were the culmination of minor disturbances throughout the week, as it became apparent that last-minute appeals for clemency would fail.

A government appeal for calm, for reason to prevail over emotion, went unheeded by the rioters.

The Bermuda Labour Party, the main opposition party, which has 15 of the 40 seats in the House of Assembly, and commands wide support among the black majority, had campaigned for a reprieve for the two men. The party leader, Mrs Lois Browne-Evans, was Tacklyn's defence lawyer.



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HOME NEWS

Mrs Williams calls on students to help the Government combat influence of racialists in schools

From Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
Blackpool

An appeal to students to help the Government to combat the influence of racism among schoolchildren and young people was made by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the opening of the National Union of Students conference in Blackpool last night.

Mrs Williams said: "It would be utterly folly if students were to close their eyes and shut their minds and try to ignore the signs of racist groups attempting to influence the views of young people at the present time, particularly the youngsters still at school."

"Many of them are much more willing to listen to the views of people like yourselves, who are only a few years older than them, than to the older generation."

"This is not something to which you can deny a platform and hope it will go away. This is an argument that can only be won by argument, by reason, by talking to the youngsters themselves by persuasion and patience."

The NUS executive is hoping to get the approval of the conference for repeal of the union's policy of denying a platform to fascist or racist speakers, who at the same time reaffirming its opposition to all forms of racialism.

The motion on racialism, which came second in the

priorities ballot, is due to be debated this afternoon.

Mrs Williams said that it was regrettable that some student unions had withdrawn support from Jewish societies. "It would surely be ironic at a time when President Sadat has signed a bold and courageous peace treaty to build peace in the Middle East, if we were to act in any way that makes relations between the Jewish and Arab communities more strained," she said.

Turning to the controversial question of financial support for young people from the age of 16, Mrs Williams acknowledged that there was "a distinct incentive financially" to leave school or full-time further education and to rely on a Manpower Services Commission training allowance or on supplementary benefits payable to any unemployed teenager who follows a part-time course of no more than three days a week.

Among the highest of the Government's priorities in education was to help those aged 16 to 19 who were unable to stay on at school.

There was good news for those who had decided to ignore the opinions of their members, and operated more as political parties. "We all know these student unions exist, mostly to defend the real students, controlled by what has become the 'political elite'. This path spells death for the student movement. Our unions must be alive to all their members," Miss Shipman said.

Student unions had decided to ignore the opinions of their members, and operated more as political parties. "We all know these student unions exist, mostly to defend the real students, controlled by what has become the 'political elite'. This path spells death for the student movement. Our unions must be alive to all their members," Miss Shipman said.

period away, which would be related only to the cost of supervision and organization during that time.

Appeal for unity: The student movement must embrace a wider spectrum of students than Jewish, white, or black, Mrs Susan Shipman, president of the NUS, said in her address to the conference.

The student movement was at a crossroads, she said. The collapse of NUS Travel had undermined its traditional identity. The key to greater unity, she suggested, was greater democratic involvement at both national and local level. Local student unions should exist for all students, not just for the few, and should be organized accordingly.

Ulster Student held: Mr Emmanuel Hamis, a Belfast student on his way to the conference, was detained by police at Blackpool airport yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The NUS said last night that he was being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

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Effects of refusal to end ban on overtime extend far beyond 1,700 Swan Hunter outfitters Gloom but little repentance in Wallsend at lost £52m order

From Ronald Faux
Wallsend

The picture of a town cutting its collective throat is unusual even in troubled industrial times, yet that is what Wallsend, on the river Tyne, has been accused of this week.

The outfitting workers at the Swan Hunter yard refused to end an overtime ban and thus drove away a £52m order from Poland. They have now compounded the act by encouraging other British yards, many of them desperate for orders, to do the same.

Wallsend has reacted gloomily to the action, which has been called suicidal for shipbuilding on the Tyne, pigheaded, and the act of industrial sabotage, by local politicians, industrial bodies and the region's press.

But on the grey streets of Wallsend there has been little repentance to report. "People

outside do not understand how angry the men feel about this. The trouble has been going on unresolved for years. The boiler-makers have become a little far from other workers than those in the past they counted the loudest. It is now our turn," one outfitting worker said.

The Polish order, part of the £115m shipping contract to be divided among British yards, drifted almost incidentally into this bitter argument over parity, which would mean an extra £2 a week to the men.

The crucial point which the workers fully realize but seem to be ignoring in their campaign for parity, is that Swan Hunter is the key to any prosperity that Wallsend might enjoy in future.

"The town relies on the company absolutely. Without Swan it is dead," a shipyard worker said. At present the five yards now under the umbrella of

British Shipbuilders, are busily employed. Under floodlights beside the sluggish Tyne the skeletal forms of new ships take shape amid the rattle of shaggy machinery.

About £12m has been invested in the yards over the last five years and that now shows in new and efficient steel-handling equipment, smart cranes that tower from the river bank. The company says it has the capacity to build any kind of ship, and build it efficiently and competently.

The yards had orders in hand for five naval and eight merchant ships, but they could not afford to relinquish the Polish orders. For the Tyne and Wear council the refusal to end the overtime ban and the loss of the Polish order was a hammer blow. Local unemployment is about 9 per cent, and the keen hope was

that by modernizing the yards that could be cut and more social growth achieved along the north bank of the river. The orders would have given more than a year's security, and the effects of their loss extend far beyond the 1,700 outfitting tradesmen. Immediately 10,000 shipbuilding workers, including the "allist" boiler-makers, were under the threat of redundancy. Beyond them were a further 15,000 who build the engines, pumps, and the myriad other items that go into a ship.

Further up the pyramid of which Swan Hunter is the solid base are a whole range of other suppliers, and much of the local commercial life of Wallsend.

"The town has suffered badly in the past, and the scars still show. This seems very much like a case of the 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' syndrome," a boiler-maker said in the ubiquitous gloom of the Penny Nip bar.

The young people too will suffer. Mr Jeffrey Reynolds, principal career officer for north Tyneside, said 112 boys and 113 girls were last week looking for work. Many of them had recently left school.

Many jobs have been created artificially with government help. A training workshop at Swan Hunter was making canoes, a small start that could lead to a formal apprenticeship for the youngsters. Others were taken on short industrial courses.

The policy seemed to be working, and gradually young people were being absorbed into the industry. But there must be a continuity of orders at the other end of the line for the scheme to work. The most crippling blow of the outfitting refusal, however, will be to the credibility of the Tyne in the tough battles ahead for new orders.

Orders for Teesside, page 17

Labour 'in confusion' on pay plan

By Our Political Correspondent

This week's "thinking aloud" by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer about pay policy showed total confusion in the Labour Party about the way ahead.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, said last night: "Mr Callaghan's speech called 'orderly return to collective bargaining', on which he was driven reluctantly to embark last July, is leading to a series of barren confrontations in defence of a so-called guideline which is too rigid because it is too high," he told a businessmen's club in his constituency of East Surrey.

That had happened because the Government had failed to emphasize that the return to collective bargaining would be jeopardized if expectations were raised too high. Pay settlements at an average of 5 to 6 per cent were the highest consistent with avoiding high unemployment and renewed inflation, Sir Geoffrey said.

Both Mr Callaghan and Mr Heath are now disposed to escape from the mess by some form of permanent, institutionalized incomes policy. Such a course would be to ignore the lessons of a decade of successful competition, notably West Germany and the United States.

'Chaos' at Irish distribution of cheap EEC butter

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

Amid confusion and recrimination, 2,000 tonnes of cheap EEC butter went on sale in the Irish Republic yesterday as part of the Community's effort to reduce its butter surplus.

The "Christmas butter", in special packs, was priced at 29p a lb, about 25p cheaper than the normal price. Queues quickly formed outside shops and supermarkets, but many people said the distribution system was poorly organized and favoured the well-off who were able to buy large quantities for storing in freezers.

By noon the Irish National Dairy Council, which is monitoring the scheme, said that more than half the republic's small shops had not received supplies. Mr Noel Gilmore, the chairman, said: "There is a strong feeling among shoppers that the butter would have been sold at a lower price if it had been sold in smaller quantities."

Many shops attempted rationing schemes. But in several stores that led to allegations by shoppers that the butter was being hoarded. Fears were also voiced that shopkeepers would rewrap supplies and sell them as normal butter. The owner of one large Galway supermarket described the situation as chaotic.

In theory the EEC butter should have been sufficient to

allow 1½lb for every man and woman in the country. There were signs last night that in some areas shoppers would never see it.

The EEC is disposing of about 70,000 tonnes of butter at reduced prices in other member countries. Britain, however, is not a party to the scheme. Cheap food attack: The Government's cheap food policy has produced a stock of butter in Britain that will take a year to eat, Mr John Peyton, opposition spokesman on agriculture, fisheries and food, said yesterday (Our Agricultural Correspondent writes).

"It would be nice if such mountains stayed at home," he told farmers at Duss, Norfolk. "But high subsidies have offered an easy and tempting market for other people's surplus."

The Government's policy of food prices down the Government had handed trade advantages to suppliers overseas.

It was "a complicated and mad" to hold prices down by manipulating the "green pound", while the EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling.

The speech showed a shift in the focus of Conservative farm policy away from the effects of taxation to a direct attack on the Government's policy of using the machinery of EEC policy against the wishes of Brussels to hold British prices down.

Political details 'not kept in police computer'

By Stewart Tisdler
Home Affairs Reporter

A Home Office minister yesterday denied that any details of political beliefs and affiliations are kept on the police national computer, but added: "Occasionally information about association with an organisation has been held for a limited period in the index of stolen or suspect cars."

In a series of written answers to questions by Miss Josephine Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, Dr Shirley Summerskill, Secretary of State at the Home Office, said that occurred "when a police officer has judged it relevant when reporting a vehicle as suspected of being used in connection with crime."

Miss Richardson raised the question after a court case in which it was revealed that police had stopped a car and discovered that the driver was

connected with the anti-hunting movement by means of the police national computer.

Dr Summerskill said that details of 17,000,000 car owners were on the computer and by 1979 it would also hold details of 170,000 disqualified drivers.

Next year details of 50,000 missing or wanted people will be fed into the computer.

The national collection of fingerprints, totalling 2,000,000 is also held on the computer and the names of 3,800,000 people convicted of "more serious crimes."

Last night the Home Office was unable to explain the difference between the last two figures or why records were kept of 1,600,000 people whose offences were serious enough to go on the computer but not serious enough to be included in the fingerprint records. It said there might be other fingerprint collections besides the national one.

Liberal peers may back censure move by Tories

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Liberal peers are expected to support a Conservative motion censure the Government over defence cuts in the House of Lords on Wednesday.

The Liberals reject suggestions that such a move would be a breach of the pact with the Government because, unlike the Conservatives, they do not see the motion as one of censure.

Lord Carrington, leader of the opposition in the Lords, has tabled a motion calling on the Government to restore the proposed defence cut of £267m and honour its pledge to NATO to spend in real terms 3 per cent more.

When the Liberal peers first heard of the motion they decided to support it, but since their decision they have learned that Lord Carrington has given to his motion that the Govern-

ment should improve the remuneration of the Armed Forces in April "and as soon as possible, thereafter, to restore full comparability."

Because of this amendment the Liberal peers are expected to have another meeting early next week to decide what line to take. A three-line whip has been issued to Liberal peers.

Speaking in Chorley, Lancashire, Mr Churchill said: "The last thing the Tories want to see is this highly profitable industry turning into a loss leader."

'Mirror' journalists accept terms for return to work

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Publication of the Daily Mirror was back to normal in London last night after journalists overwhelmingly accepted a formula proposed by printing union leaders. The management had earlier agreed to withdraw the dismissals of 450 journalists and resume publication in London provided that the journalists accepted the terms.

The management decided 13 days ago to halt publication in London of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People and Revue after journalists had rejected a pay offer.

Sunday Mirror and Sunday People journalists also voted to accept the formula, which provides for the urgent resumption of pay negotiations between the National Union of Journalists and Mirror Group management.

The dispute resulted in a loss of 51 million copies of the group's newspapers and a gross loss of circulation and advertising revenue estimated at £3.8m.

The formula was accepted by the NUJ negotiators in London yesterday after Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Nat-sop), and a senior National Graphical Association (NGA) representative had met NUJ

officials on Thursday.

Under the management agreement that dismissed notices are withdrawn and the NUJ chapels (office branches), individually and as a group, undertake that full production will resume and that any discussions on the pay claim will not interrupt production, and that the normal deadlines will be kept.

The question of journalists' pay during the period when the difficulties occurred is to be referred to a committee.

The original management ultimatum had said that the journalists would be taken back only if they agreed not to disrupt production and to accept an offer of £1,533 a year plus an editor's merit review, with special payments for skills, training and responsibility needed for new photo-composition techniques.

The offer to journalists, who have been claiming £3,000 a year, was rejected by the Department of Employment intervention over sections which were outside government pay guidelines.

The NUJ negotiators yesterday resumed normal working after pay talks disrupted production on Thursday, causing a cut in the number of pages from 48 to 32.

The management indicated that it was prepared to improve its pay offer of 10 per cent to 11 per cent and not insist on a five-day week instead of the four now worked.

Doctor denies confidence breach in tip-off

A doctor who passed on to Mr Tariq Ali comments about Grunwick pickets allegedly made by a magistrate denied yesterday that he had breached medical confidence.

The magistrate, withdrew from hearing a Grunwick case at Willesden Court on Thursday after Mr Ali's newspaper, Socialist Challenge, accused her of leaking information to Mr Tariq Ali, 35, who practices at Neasden Lane, Willesden, north London, held a press conference at the office of Socialist Challenge in Islington. Mr Ali was at his side.

Dr Stern said the magistrate was a patient at his surgery. She was not on his list but he had treated her once or twice. He said his conversation with the magistrate took place near the surgery and another person was also talking to her. He alleged that she said she was

not pleased by "the very light sentences" a stipendiary magistrate had given to Grunwick pickets. After the conversation he made a note on a tape recorder.

Denying any breach of medical confidence, Dr Stern said: "There is no suggestion that this was a secret or confidential conversation and it had nothing to do with a medical consultation."

Dr Stern, who was born in South Africa, said he held left-wing views but did not belong to any political party. He has treated people injured on the Grunwick picket line and had submitted written evidence to courts concerning five or six of them.

He said he sympathized with the Grunwick strikers in those cases where he had seen injuries. "I had no reason to doubt what they told me."

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Receiver says Aintree has not been sold

Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool, has not been sold to the consortium headed by Mr Ronald Linstead, a scrap dealer, the receiver said yesterday.

The consortium had said that the £2.5m sale of the racecourse, the home of the Grand National, would go ahead.

Mr Colin Davies, the receiver, said in a statement yesterday: "The contract for the sale of Aintree Racecourse between the Walton Commercial Group Ltd and Mr R. A. Linstead has not been completed and no extension to the contract has been granted."

The property is available for sale through myself as receiver, and I am taking up negotiations with several interested parties."

Tesco coffee is no fall in price by 21p to 99p for a 4oz packet from Monday. Last month Sainsbury's cut the price of its Vendoma coffee to 99p.

Cheaper coffee
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Miss Rantzen marries
Miss Esther Rantzen, aged 37, of BBC television's *The Big Time*, was married in Richmond yesterday to Mr Desmond Rantzen, aged 46, head of BBC TV General Services.

Clothing workers' 10%
A 10 per cent pay rise for 95,000 clothing industry workers was announced yesterday by the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers and the Apparel and Fashion Industry's Association.

Power industries deny code was contravened

Gas and electricity officials yesterday denied an allegation by the National Consumer Council that the code of practice in relation to disconnections for poor people had been contravened.

A statement from the gas and electricity industries said the "true position is completely different from the picture presented by inaccurate historical data as those quoted by the National Consumer Council."

Two men were charged last night with the murder of Mr George Fairbridge, aged 60, a postman, at his home in Potters Road, New Barnet, in July last year.

They are Robert Bamforth, aged 34, a resident of 11, Kingsley Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, and George Humminga, aged 34, a builder, of Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton, north London. They were also charged with conspiracy to rob. All three are to appear in court at Barnet today.

Tories to discuss choice for seat
The Huddersfield, East, Conservative constituency party is to meet on Monday to discuss whether to displace Mrs Margaret Wood, the prospective parliamentary candidate.

Mrs Wood said yesterday that she had been accused of "apparent lack of activity" and of not making enough impact in the constituency. Huddersfield, East, is held by Labour with a majority of 8,414.

Birmingham buys £400,000 Bellini
Birmingham City Art Gallery has bought Bellini's *Madonna and Child* by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday in a Commons written reply.

Of the £400,000 purchase price, £72,000 was provided by the Government and a £30,000 donation was made by Mr Denis Mahon.

Power station may be shut

Continued from page 1

will abide by our promise not to increase tariffs this year. The outcome depends on establishing the extent of seawater intrusion, and hence salt. Extensive contamination within the reactor core, which is now under examination, could end in a write-off.

The source of the trouble apparently began in a modification of a secondary cooling system last March, which led to a catastrophic chain of events. The secondary cooling system uses fresh water to circulate around the bearings of large fans that pump carbon dioxide as the coolant through the main part of the reactor.

The gas is carried to the heat exchangers, where steam is

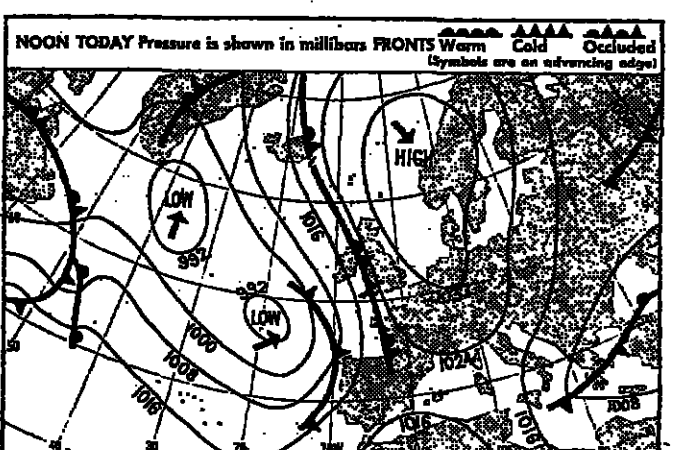
raised to drive electrical generators.

A small leak of carbon dioxide developed through a seal into the secondary water cooling system. A modification was made to remove that contaminated carbon dioxide water in a special by-pass pipe into seawater cooling ponds.

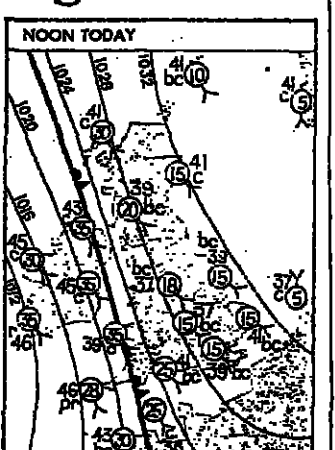
When maintenance work was carried out in the reactor and the pressure of the gas system reduced, seawater was able to flood back up the pipe through the valve into the reactor.

The residual heat of the reactor was such that the seawater evaporated rapidly, leaving a deposit of salt on the insulating material surrounding the reactor core.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Tomorrow
Sun rises: 7.47 am Sun sets: 3.54 pm Moon sets: 12.12 pm Light quarter: 9.44 pm Last quarter: 4.24 pm High water: London Bridge, 5.53 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 6.38 pm, 6.3m (20.7ft); 11.15 am, 11.0m (36.0ft); 11.44 pm, 10.6m (34.6ft). Low water: Dover, 9.5 am, 5.8m (18.9ft); 3.43 pm, 5.5m (18.0ft). Ruin, 11.47 am, 11.47 pm (20.6ft). 10.41 pm, 6.2m (20.5ft). 3.34 am, 7.6m (25.0ft); 3.49 pm, 7.8m (25.7ft).	Sun rises: 7.48 am Sun sets: 3.54 pm Moon sets: 12.37 pm New Moon: December 10. Lighting up: 4.24 pm to 7.19 am. High water: London Bridge, 6.35 am, 6.1m (20.1ft); 7.19 pm, 6.2m (20.2ft). Low water: Dover, 9.5 am, 5.8m (18.9ft); 3.43 pm, 5.5m (18.0ft). Ruin, 11.47 am, 11.47 pm (20.6ft). 10.41 pm, 6.2m (20.5ft). 3.34 am, 7.6m (25.0ft); 3.49 pm, 7.8m (25.7ft).



Pressure will remain high over the North Sea.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, NW and central N England, Midlands and Lake District: Bright or sunny periods; dry; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 8°C (41°F).
East Anglia, E and NE England: Dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind SE, light; max temp 5°C (41°F).
Channel, Wales, SW: Becoming rather cloudy; some rain; wind SE, fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).
SE, fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).
SW, England, Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Rather cloudy; some rain; wind SE, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Dry, sunny periods; max temp 8°C (46°F).
Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, sunny intervals; dry; wind SE, moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

SW, NW Scotland, Argyll: Rather cloudy, rain in places later; wind SE, fresh or strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Dry with sunny intervals in the cloud; rain in W will spread to central areas. Temp will return near to normal in most places.
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, Irish Sea: moderate; sea slight.
English channel (E): Wind SE, fresh or strong; sea rough.
Wind SE, strong or gale; sea very rough.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY	MIDDAY	C	cloud	f	fair
Algeria	11.6	70			
Amsterdam	11.6	70			
Antwerp	11.6	70			
Athens	11.6	70			
Bahia	11.6	70			
Bombay	11.6	70			
Buenos Aires	11.6	70			
Calcutta	11.6	70			
Canton	11.6	70			
Cebu	11.6	70			
Colon	11.6	70			
Hankow	11.6	70			
Hong Kong	11.6	70			
Kobe	11.6	70			

HOME NEWS

Plan to bring colleges under the control of a national council

By Peter David, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A powerful national council to control and finance local authority colleges and polytechnics is likely to be set up by the Government as the result of 11 months of work by an advisory committee meeting in private under Mr Oakes, Minister of State for higher education.

Once established, the national council would become one of the most powerful bodies in education, responsible for negotiating the total amount of money, at present £400m a year, to be spent on higher education outside the universities.

It would also be responsible for dividing the sum between individual institutions and courses, analysing supply and demand for higher education and coordinating plans with the University Grants Committee.

Creation of the council is expected to be the main recommendation of Mr Oakes's committee, which is scheduled to finish its work before Christmas. Its report is due to be published early next year.

Agreement has been made possible only because the local authority associations have been persuaded to drop their initial objections to a scheme that will diminish local government control over the public sector of higher education.

Local authorities are likely to have substantial representation, however, and a form of veto, on the new body. The Department of Education and Science's plan is for a tripartite body

with seven representatives of local government, seven polytechnic staff members and seven nominees of the secretary of state representing "other interests". There would also be two representatives of industry and an independent chairman.

Under the scheme the national council would pay for more than 85 per cent of the costs of public sector higher education. As an incentive to efficient management local authorities will have to meet the remaining 15 per cent of their own polytechnics' spending directly.

The 15 per cent direct contribution represents a much larger local stake in polytechnics than exists under the present pooling arrangements. Because of fears that many local authorities could not pay it without considerable rate increases, Mr Oakes is expected to suggest phasing the system in over a period of years.

Big changes in the regional arrangements for coordinating higher education will also be part of the Oakes report. A departmental document endorsed by the committee at its last meeting proposed setting up new four-way education advisory councils to take over the work of the nine existing regional advisory councils.

The new councils would differ by combining responsibility for teacher-education and its service training with advanced further education generally but they would have no substantial executive role in relation to the national body.

Lay members on Press Council increased

By a Staff Reporter

The number of lay members on the Press Council is to be increased from 10 to 18 to bring about equal representation with members of the industry.

Announcing that they had accepted the recommendation by the Royal Commission of the Press, the Press Council said yesterday that its members felt that public confidence in its impartiality would be increased.

The council will in future be composed of an independent chairman, 18 representatives from the newspaper and magazine industry, 18 lay members and trade union, 18 lay representatives, and eight consultative members at all present.

The council was faced with reducing the number of representatives or increasing its membership. It said yesterday that it was to retain the respect of editors there had to be a substantial professional element on the council. For that reason it decided that membership had to be enlarged.

Although welcoming a number of the royal commission's observations, the council rejects a proposal that its chairman should also be the chairman of the appointments commission. That body, at present chaired by Lord Briggs, of Lewes, is responsible for appointing the lay members of the Press Council.

For the same person to be chairman of both bodies, the council says, would be contrary to the Younger committee

report of 1972. It was important, too, that the appointments commission should not be part of a self-perpetuating machine.

A suggestion by the royal commission that Press Council adjudications that upheld complaints should be published on the front pages of newspapers is rejected as impracticable, as is a proposal that the council should drop its practice of requiring an undertaking from complainants that they will not pursue legal action against a newspaper when an adjudication has been made.

In reply to a recommendation that the council should be extended, the council says: "The principle is that any person or organisation attacked in the press is morally entitled to a fair and reasonable reply... whether by letter or statement published editorially."

Over reporting racial matters the royal commission favoured the council's role in supporting information. Commenting on that, the Press Council says it is aware of the possibility of "positive racism in reporting and negative racism in the community relationships."

After welcoming the royal commission's rejection of legislation to deal with intrusion on privacy, the council takes issue with the commission's condemnation of the press for its treatment of the women's community relationships. The council refuses to exclude the possibility that in some instances subterfuge is justified.

Government wants new mortgage rate cut

By Margaret Stone

The Government is looking for a further cut in the mortgage interest rate and hopes that it would help to prevent a house price rise spiral.

In a letter to Mr Roderick MacFarquhar, Labour MP for Belper, Mr Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that building societies would no doubt be considering a cut if funds continued to flow into the movement.

As the Building Societies Association Mr Barnett's letter was seen as "sympathetic" to the difficulties of the building society movement. Mr Barnett acknowledged that the societies' caution over interest rates, which have already been cut three times this year, was "understandable."

Although money is continuing to pour into the societies in vast quantities—about £500m is predicted for November—they feel it is worth a little too early to assess what impact the increase in minimum lending rate and bank rates will have.

Initial hopes that the societies would be announcing a further cut in the mortgage rate next week have had to be virtually—but not quite—abandoned. It seems much more likely that a cut may be announced in January instead.

In his letter Mr Barnett said it was important that the volume of mortgage finance on offer should not outstrip the level which the housing market was reasonably expected to absorb without triggering off substantial increases in house prices.

The societies are issuing mortgage funds at the rate of about £800m a month. Although house prices are rising the about 10 per cent a quarter, there is little evidence that they are going up too fast.

Staff to cut teaching

Staff at Brunel University are to stop teaching undergraduates but to continue to teach postgraduates because students are continuing to occupy parts of the university in a protest over differential fees for overseas students.

Labour 'must contest European elections'

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Like it or not, the Labour Party will have to fight the elections to the European Parliament, Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, said.

Labour supporters at Primley Green, Surrey, last night.

He said a majority in the House of Commons favoured direct elections, even though it was made up largely of Conservatives and members of other parties.

"If Parliament decides they shall take place, then they will," Mr Hayward said. "We must hope they happen later, not sooner, and certainly not before our own general election, but they will happen."

In that event it is inconceivable to me that the British Labour Party, a great political party with mass electoral support, a party which has become the natural party of government, which is more international in outlook than any other British political party, should stand on the sidelines and let a motley crowd of Tory merchant bankers, wispy-wasby



Two paintings which fetched record prices for the artists at Christie's yesterday. Lorenzo Lotto's "Madonna and Child with a Donor and his Wife" (£220,000) and, below, Pannini's "Interior of St Peter's, Rome" (£240,000). (Geraldine Norman, page 16).



Liberals and a rag-bag of independent Labour candidates fight for the right to represent us in Europe.

"However strongly we feel about the Common Market and direct elections, it is not worth running the risk of so dividing us that we hand victory on a plate to the Tories. Britain cannot afford another Tory government and Britain is more important than Brussels."

Thus Mr Hayward's theme was that unity in the party must be preserved in order to fight the general election; dissen- sion over Europe must be pushed into second place.

"We have survived the worst depression the western world has seen for nearly fifty years and we have survived it in pretty good shape. Unemployment is at a scandalous level, admittedly, but while the Government has done its best to cushion the impact, particularly for school-leavers and those living in our old industrial centres, the problem is far too deep-seated for a minority Labour Government to attempt anything but cosmetic surgery. The sure could be dif-

ferent when we get a Labour government with a working majority. The movement must never forget that main objective, Mr Hayward said.

"We may complain that the Government has not done all it should do... We all make mistakes, but the biggest mistake of all would be to lose the next general election."

In spite of its precarious position at Westminster, the Labour Government had done a great deal to transform British industry; the chance to plough more investment into manufacturing, to create many new jobs and reduce unemployment.

After two years of sacrifice by working people, there was a unique chance to create the strong economic base on which to build a democratic socialist Britain.

Nothing must come between us and that goal, less of all the issue of direct elections to the European Parliament. This is an issue which is stirring up great passions in Westminster, but none at all in the country at large. Rightly or wrongly, people could give a damn about direct elections.

The field of old age pensions and other social security benefits has been transformed. Remember what pensions were when Labour took office in March, 1974? Then a single pensioner on £7.75 a week and a couple £12.50 a week. Now a single pensioner gets £17.50 a week and a couple £28 a week. That is 125 per cent more, and other benefits, for sickness, un-

employment, industrial injury and war veterans, plus the invalid and mobility allowances introduced by Labour, have gone up also.

The benefits of North Sea oil were about to burst on the country, and with them the chance to transform British industry; the chance to plough more investment into manufacturing, to create many new jobs and reduce unemployment.

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Anglo-Irish agreement to protect fisheries

By Hugh Clayton

Britain and the Irish Republic agreed yesterday to combine to protect their fishermen against the rest of the EEC. The pact, sealed over tea at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, strengthens the British Government's determination to resist the European Commission's latest plan for sharing catches in Community waters.

Yesterday's event was carefully orchestrated by the ministry, usually one of the least theatrical of Whitehall departments. First, officials marshalled outside the building a dozen fishermen and fishermen's wives from ports in the north-east.

Then Mr Silkin, the minister, strode down the steps like a Hollywood Caesar, straight at the television cameras. The fishermen showed him a net with five-millimetre mesh, which they said had been used by a Danish boat despite EEC rules about using mesh large enough to let immature fish up to a foot long pass through.

Mr Roy Beamish, a weather-beaten skipper from Hull of 30 years' experience, said: "They are literally destroying the grounds." Mr Silkin replied that the key to a successful EEC policy for fish was successful enforcement of its rules. "I think we have the best fishery management service in Europe and the best intelligence service too."

Since Britain had extended its national waters to 200 miles in January officials had boarded 1,400 boats and had begun more than 30 prosecutions. Mr Silkin was cut short as officials shepherded the crowd away

from the cameras to create a clear entrance for Mr Brian Lenihan, Irish Minister for Fisheries.

The basic matter on which our two countries agree is for the establishment of a coastal zone under the management of the two countries. Mr Lenihan said: "We look naturally for bigger quotas than you might like us to get, but there is a strong area of agreement. An unbridled policy will inevitably lead to extinction of our fish stocks."

The commission has proposed six rules, which the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic say offer insufficient protection for replenishment of stocks and give other EEC states too much leeway in the waters of the two countries. In their combined coastal waters the two have more than three quarters of the Community's fish.

Mrs Pamela Scotter, a fisherman's wife from Bridlington, Humberside, asked Mr Silkin: "Is there any future for our sons?" He replied: "We will do our damndest to see that there is, but do not underestimate the fight there will be. We are prepared to go on and on and on until we get what is absolutely right and fair."

He would like a solution to be found at a meeting of Community fish ministers next week, but did not expect it. Mr Lenihan said the Irish Republic wanted only an exclusive 50-mile zone off its shores. That was not quite the same as British policy, because Mr Silkin said: "An exclusive zone is on the table, but it anyone can come up with an alternative that works, of course we will look at it."

Petrol price warning to garages

By Our Commercial Editor

Unless garages stop selling part-gallons of petrol at higher prices the Government will consider fresh legislative action, Mr Robert MacLennan, Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday.

Some petrol retailers, while offering discounts on posted pump prices, gave the discount on "full gallons only," he said. Motorists who asked a pump attendant to fill a vehicle, or for so many pounds' worth of petrol, might pay more than they should.

Mr MacLennan urged motorists to avoid garages making such conditions of sale or to make sure purchases were in full gallons.

Unless there was a marked improvement by garages in the practice, which he felt was "undesirable and unnecessary," Mr MacLennan said, further action would be considered when the petrol prices display order was reviewed soon.

Skateboard park to replace zoo

Plymouth zoo, which is owned by Chipperfields, is to close this month and be replaced by a skateboard park.

Animals from the zoo, which opened 15 years ago, will be moved to safari parks at Long-leat, Woburn, Liverpool and Stirlingshire.

Women 'right to protest at light rape sentences'

By Michael Bailly

Transport Correspondent

Stratford-on-Avon's buses, which lost about £50,000 last year, seem likely to make a £50,000 profit this year. The passengers, who get much the same service, are fairly happy. So are the Midlands Red Bus Company and Warwickshire County Council, which stood to meet those losses.

It is a transformation being closely watched by bus operators and local authorities elsewhere, plagued equally by rising fares, disappearing passengers and mounting deficits. Yet all that Stratford has done, some would say, is to apply common sense and good management.

The bus company undertook detailed market research to find out what services were wanted by the people of Stratford and a dozen miles around; it then modified routes and timetables quite extensively to meet those requirements in the most economical way.

Mr Anthony Wilken, for the prosecution, said Miss X met Mr Pilegrim at a party. At his flat he locked the door, grabbed her, and when she struggled hit her over the head with a spirit bottle, cracking her skull and causing cuts which needed 20 stitches. She was so terrified that she submitted to intercourse.

Liquid analysed after deaths

Liquid in a bottle taken by police from the Sedco J oil rig on the Fildis field off Shetland, after the death of two men is being analysed.

It is believed that at least one of the men had been blinded and suffered severe kidney failure.

£300,000 housing faults

Faults in 97 recently modernised council houses at Rye Hill, Newcastle upon Tyne, will cost at least £300,000 to put right.

Midland bus experiment pays dividend

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Europeans must think big, Mr Rippon says

By Our Political Correspondent

The need for Europeans, including the British, to "think big" was emphasised in Harrogate yesterday, by Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, Conservative MP for Hexham and leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament.

Since Denmark and Britain joined the EEC the Community had "thought big" only once when it decided on direct elections for the European Parliament, he said. The significance of that decision had not been lost on Americans, he said, for the United States Congress had passed an Act establishing a statutory basis to its relations with the European Parliament.

It had done so, Mr Rippon said, on the ground that "the provision is intended to give recognition to what is arguably becoming, from the United States perspective, the most important other parliamentary body in the world."

Attacking the Government's delay in proceeding with the European Direct Elections Bill, Mr David Howell, Conservative MP for Guildford who leads the Opposition on the Bill, said yesterday that there was no chance that the crucial issue of the method of election would be fully discussed on the one day that had been allotted.

Unless the Government had a dramatic change of heart, he said, the Bill would be a "little prospect" that the Commons could discuss the main part of the Bill until January, and the chance of meeting the May-June deadline for the elections grew ever dimmer.

"Parliament is not going to be tricked into decisions about electoral reform by devices of this kind, and we are not going to have a half-baked version of the Bill until January, and the chance of meeting the May-June deadline for the elections grew ever dimmer."

But on November 24 Mr Justice Pannett brought Mr Paton before the court again because the jury had not been directed to return a formal verdict of guilty as required by law. But Mr Paton pleaded not guilty again and a retrial began before a fresh jury.

Man sentenced to life jail twice in 10 days

For the second time in 10 days John Paton, aged 41, was sentenced, at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment for the murder of Robert Houston, aged 23, of Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire, a fellow inmate in Wakefield jail. Mr Paton, of Lunon, Bedfordshire, was convicted after a seven-day retrial.

He had pleaded not guilty on November 21 and his trial began, but two days later he changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

But on November 24 Mr Justice Pannett brought Mr Paton before the court again because the jury had not been directed to return a formal verdict of guilty as required by law. But Mr Paton pleaded not guilty again and a retrial began before a fresh jury.

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Hospital has to refuse £10 bonus for many patients

By a Staff Reporter

A psychiatric hospital in Harrogate is having to refuse the £10 Christmas pension bonus for most of its patients because they already have more money than they can spend.

This bitter unseasonal paradox is a result of chronic shortage of money caused by the rigidities of official regulations.

Two years ago the Government introduced a non-voluntary invalidity pension (NCIP) of £3.50 a week for males between the ages of 16 and 65 and females between 16 and 60. That is replaced by the old age pension when they reach pensionable age. Those who were already of pensionable age in 1975 and those under 16 receive nothing.

In addition, there is a new official incentive system that enables medical consultants and nurses to reward a patient with up to £4 a week. Each patient has a private bank account and draws money to spend on such things as toothpaste, sweets and cigarettes.

The health service accountant has advised that the balances in those accounts should be kept at about £100. It is invidious to spend the money on such things for general use in the wards as television sets,

Hospital has to refuse £10 bonus for many patients

because it makes the hospital liable to criticism for usurping the money of its patients. The departmental rules say that the money is for personal, not joint use.

St Albans Hospital, at St Albans, has about 650 patients, whose mental ages range from a few months to 10. About 100 of them are not eligible for the Christmas pension bonus anyway, either because they are under 16 or because they were too old when the NCIP was introduced.

What the hospital would like to do is to accept the bonus for those of its patients who can manage to spend it (about one in 10), and use the bonus of the rest either for its really old people who get nothing, or for purchases for the general good.

Dr Gordon Fisher, medical co-ordinator of the hospital, said yesterday: "We should be irresponsible to let the bank balances of patients grow above the departmental limit, with no hope of them spending the money."

To accept the bonus for some and not for others invites criticism from outside of discrimination. What we should like to do is spend the money on things for the wards that are desperately needed for the general good. But that is illegal."

Polytechnics angry over spending plans

Great Britain would increase by 14 per cent, while those following advanced courses in the public sector in England, Wales, other than in teacher training, would rise by about 39 per cent.

However, it did not take into account the Government's assumption of a fall by half in the numbers in teacher training in England and Wales, from 86,500 last year to 38,000 in 1981, and of a slight increase in the total advanced non-university sector in Scotland from 27,400 to 31,000.

Comparing like with like, therefore, the total number of students in the advanced public

£300 fine over chemical blast

Robinson Brothers, a chemical company at Sandwell, West Midlands, was fined £300 at West Bromwich Magistrates' Court yesterday for an explosion in which Mr Kenneth Smith, aged 41, was fatally injured.

The company admitted a breach of factory regulations concerning highly inflammable liquids. The explosion, last August, rocked a processing plant.

Report of the working party on the future development of the State Film History Register, Universities Film Council, 101, House, 72 Dean Street, London, W1V 5HB, £1.

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WEST EUROPE Speculation over Chirac visit to Elysee

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 2

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader and Mayor of Paris, has aroused political speculation by asking to see President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysee Palace. They will meet on Wednesday evening.

In the meantime, the Gaullist leader has cancelled all interviews and engagements, notably a radio interview on Sunday, and postponed visits to the provinces until he has met the President.

The meeting, inevitably, has a far reaching political significance. Like all M. Chirac's moves, it is calculated to propel him dramatically to the centre of the limelight, which has tended in recent weeks to move away from him on M. Giscard d'Estaing and M. Barre, the Prime Minister.

The President and M. Chirac, whose personal relations continue to be strained, even though they have agreed to bury the hatchet until the parliamentary elections in March, have not met since last March, when M. Chirac was elected Mayor of Paris. That was a purely formal occasion.

This time, M. Chirac, a former Prime Minister, wants to have a heart-to-heart discussion with the President on the political situation and the prospects for the Government parties in the elections, which give him increasing cause for concern. From his system of canvassing of the departments—he has visited 22 out of 90 in the past two months—he has become convinced that the left remains as dangerous as it was before the breach between the Gaullists and Communists on September 22.

The breach has scarcely, if at all, undermined the combined strength of both leading opposition parties in the country or benefited the Government parties. The reason, as M. Chirac sees it, is that M. Barre's economic plan has failed. A different remedy is therefore urgently required, namely the support of the 2 per cent or 3 per cent of undecided voters who will decide the outcome at the polls.

At the same time, the parties of the Government must give public opinion a more dynamic and positive image of their own unity and their objectives, by refraining from behind-the-scenes manoeuvres against one another on the false assumption that the danger from the left has declined, and with it the appeal of the Gaullists.

M. Chirac is, of course, particularly sensitive to veiled threats to the Gaullists' distinct personality through attempts to 'chip' them into line behind the Government.

M. Chirac's problem is to defend the identity of his party, without undermining the unity of the Government majority, or the challenging position of the President. His call on M. Giscard d'Estaing is a demonstration of his loyalty to the presidential institution, and a clever attempt to steal a march on the Government and on his coalition partners.

Dutch fail to renew Agee permit

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Dec 2

Philip Agee, the author and former CIA agent expelled from Britain, has not had his permit to stay in Holland renewed, the Ministry of Justice announced.

The Ministry said Mr Agee had originally applied for a one-year permit. He was instead allowed to stay for three months on condition that he abstained from activities that could endanger public order and national security, or damage Holland's foreign relations.

It is understood that Mr Agee, through various publications, is considered to have had a damaging effect on these relations. The Ministry refused to comment, saying the matter was sub judice.

Mr Agee's appeal against the original decision to refuse him a one-year permit will be heard on December 15. Pending the hearing he may remain in the country. A final decision by the Justice Minister on whether to expel Mr Agee is expected early in January.

Communists attack leftist report

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 2

The French Communist Party has reacted with predictable violence to a report on the development of European union to the Western European Union (WEU) Assembly earlier this week by M. Raymond Forni, a leading member of the Socialist Party's left-wing group, the Ceres.

The report called for "harmonization of the strategic concepts of member countries" and the "reinforcement of consultation procedures" in Western defence.

It was the first time a French Socialist—and, what is more, a prominent representative of the Socialist Party, which is close to the Communist Party—but very critical of the latter's French defence cooperation—had aired his views on the subject before the Assembly.

The report showed how the Ceres view is evolving towards the mainstream party view. It will be discussed in detail at a



Mrs Thatcher with Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, in Brussels.

EEC policy similar under Tories

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Dec 2

Conservative government would pursue a policy towards the EEC very little different in its essentials from that of the Labour Government. This was the clear impression left by Mrs Margaret Thatcher after two days of talks in Brussels with Naro and European Commission officials.

At a farewell press conference, Mrs Thatcher said that under Mr Callaghan and Mr

Wilson, Britain had "not played the most willingly cooperative part in the Community". Under a Conservative government, she promised, there would be a change of attitude.

Pressed to say what this would mean in practice, Mrs Thatcher was at a loss to identify any important area of policy where the Tories might have acted differently from the present Government. The only suggestion she could offer was that the Tories would not have "mucked about" for so long before introducing a Bill on direct elections to the European Parliament.

Sitting at her side, Mr John Davies, the Conservative spokesman on European affairs, clipped in to say that he thought the EEC might be nearer to

having a common energy policy in a Tory Britain. He believed the Government had pursued an "unreal objective" in its insistence on the Community's adoption of a minimum price for oil.

On fisheries, Mrs Thatcher said that the Tories would prefer Britain to have exclusive control over its coastal waters and "we are certain that that can be properly motivated". This is fully in line with current Government policy which is the main cause of the impasse in the negotiations to get a new EEC fisheries policy.

The clear impression from the press conference was that in an increasingly electoral atmosphere in Britain, an overly effusive pro-European stance is not likely to win votes.

Bookseller on trial for selling 'violent' paper

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Dec 2

Thoms Kram of Bochum today became the first person to go on trial in West Germany under a controversial law which punishes anyone who sells, distributes or passes on material advocating crime and violence.

Herr Kram is accused of having put on sale in his bookshop six copies of a newspaper which allegedly advocated the destruction of the state apparatus and armed conflict. The paper, entitled *Revolutionary Rage*, was allegedly published by an extreme left-wing group.

He faces a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and a possible ban on selling books in future.

The court in Dortmund today rejected an application to send Herr Kram to the police station to test the validity of the law. Commonly known as "paragraph 88a", it punishes anyone who sells, distributes or passes on material advocating crime and violence.

Meanwhile, the Government is becoming alarmed by the soaring numbers of conscientious objectors who apply to do civilian instead of military service. The court's decision will be announced in March.

Huge assault hovercraft is tested by Russia

Brussels, Dec 2.—The Soviet Navy is testing a huge, 90 mph, assault hovercraft for use against the defenders of an enemy beach.

The hovercraft is powered by two engines, weighs about 225-250 tons and is about 150ft long. It has a bow ramp to discharge troops and vehicles.

The sources said that Nato military commanders were concerned about the Soviet decision to develop an assault hovercraft because it would vastly increase the striking power of the 11,000 Warsaw Pact amphibious troops in the Baltic.

Hovercraft can also move over land and thus could pass over the bogs, rivers and canals in Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein which now act as natural defensive barriers for Nato.

place French military potential at the disposal of the German Atlantic system" at the very time when "the Nato Supreme Commander vetoes the participation of communists in the government in France".

After reading it, it was clear why M. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, rejected an autonomous national defence. The Forni report threw overboard the fundamental principles of the left-wing common programme for defence. It revealed "the right turn by the Socialist Party".

M. Forni said today that his report said the nuclear deterrent was a sufficiently serious matter for a country not to leave it to an international forum to decide on its possible limitation or abandonment.

"But an independent defence, in which I believe, does not imply the abandonment of all alliances," he said.

The French communists should reflect on this and follow the lead of their Italian comrades who had approved his report.

The paintings worth £100,000 stolen in The Hague

The Hague, Dec 2.—Eleven paintings valued at more than 450,000 guilders (about £100,000), including one by Van Gogh, were stolen from the Citizens' Municipal Museum of The Hague, the police said today.

The paintings vanished from a storage room in the basement of the museum.

The Van Gogh, called "A Natural Bird's Nest", was the most valuable, worth about 200,000 guilders.—AP.

Italy's new speed limits face criticism

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Dec 2

The final rush before Christmas should test the new speed regulations imposed by the Italian Government which have come in for some heavy criticism from, among others, the Italian Automobile Club.

The complexity of the new law is seen to be its principal weakness. The speed limit within built-up areas of 50 kilometres an hour (31 mph) applies to all cars, but on roads outside towns and villages the limit is 60 km/h (37 mph) for cars of different cylinder capacity.

Cars are divided into four groups and each group is allotted a different maximum speed on roads and on motorways, meaning that there are eight in all and nine, counting the 50 kilometre an hour limit in built up areas, which in fact has always existed but has been widely ignored.

Despite the complications, the system is far better than the old one, which was regarded as fair to all. The owner for instance of a 650 cc Fiat 126 is allowed to travel at a maximum speed of 110 kilometres an hour even though it is a 105 kilometre an hour car.

At the other end of the scale, the owners of cars with large engines are said to be penalized because the difference between their effective top speeds and the maximum allowed by law is much wider than that for small cars.

The multiplicity of permitted speeds makes checking more difficult. Inspectors have to check the difference between the speed of cars as well as check the speed. Most of the instrument the police will use have not yet been distributed.

These have already fallen victim to the difference between the speed limit in built-up areas and the relative safety of the road.

The weak point of the new system is that a quarter of all accidents in built-up areas occur at great curves without traffic lights or policemen. The argument is heard that the speed limit in built-up areas should be varied according to the relative safety of the road.

Several factors have helped, including better roads and safety campaigns, but almost certainly a degree of self-limitation of speed by motorists because of the rising costs of fuel, and better maintenance of cars have contributed to the improvement.

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OVERSEAS

Tripoli summit sets out to change map of alliances and balance of forces throughout Arab world

From David Watts
Tripoli, Dec 2

The six hard-line leaders of the Arab world today began talks here in an attempt to unify opposition to President Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

Colonel Gaddafi, their Libyan host, led the delegates from Algeria, Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organization, South Yemen and Syria into the ornate former palace of King Idris to start work on a common stand which he hoped would leave President Sadat even more isolated, than he is at present.

The meeting was remarkable in itself as a reflection of the new closeness between previously fractious Arab neighbours. Not only were the Iraqis and Syrians laying aside their bitter political rivalries, but the Palestinians and Iraqis have brought a clear-cut plan to Tripoli and the Libyans will also present a set of proposals.

By the end of the conference, the "rejectionists" are hoping to formulate a position that will tempt more moderate Arab states, such as Sudan, into the anti-Sadat camp. They hope that a show of strength, couched in appropriately moderate language, will bring about what a conference of representatives, convened in the whole map of Arab alliances and the balance of forces in the Arab world.

Arriving at agreement is likely to prove a difficult task, however.

The first session, of three and a half hours, with their views on the necessity to confront the dangerous results of the [Sadat] visit.

No details were disclosed, but it is understood that the most radical of the hard-liners are seeking a complete breach of diplomatic relations with Egypt and an economic boycott.

According to a spokesman, the Palestinians and Iraqis have brought a clear-cut plan to Tripoli and the Libyans will also present a set of proposals.

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shorted time preventing Colonel Gaddafi, dressed in the traditional burrows, from leading his guests to prayers in a near by mosque.

The conference reconvened five hours later and heard a message from President Amin of Uganda. As a member of the PLO delegation, he read it, sections ranged from a quizzical smile on President Assad's face to laughter from President Boumedienne.

Moscow: President Brezhnev today assured Mr Tareq Aziz, a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, of continuing Soviet support for the Arab cause and the goal of liberating all Israel-held Arab territory. He also reaffirmed Soviet support for the Palestinians and their struggle for national rights.

Cairo: Egypt has not yet decided whether to invite Palestinians from the West Bank of the Jordan to the pre-Geneva conference on the Middle East proposed by President Sadat, the newspaper *Al-Akhar* said today.—Reuter.

Mr Gorbachev made no secret of the fact that he had no visa, but the problem was brushed aside. He was taken to a room where he chatted with Egyptians over cups of coffee and tea for two hours until a senior official rectified. One of the Egyptians then insisted on driving Mr Gorbachev, who was born in Egypt but has Israeli citizenship, to his hotel.

The Ministry of the Interior in Jerusalem issued a statement reminding residents that they must acquire special permits to visit an "enemy" country.

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Republican hopefuls start to think about 1980 nomination

KGB summons Dr Zinoviev for questioning

Ice hockey
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Buffalo Sabres 3, Montreal Canadiens 1; Boston Bruins 4, Minnesota North Stars 2; Philadelphia Flyers 4, Los Angeles Kings 2.

Mrs McArdy to race in US after being sold for record sum

Gala Lad lands substantial gamble on the Tote

Alverton to extinguish Beacon Light

207	2231-22	Flora (Major J. Urquhart, C. Bewick)	7-11-5 G. Faulkner
208	2231-22	Queen's College (Queen Mother), F. Walswyn	6-11-2 W. Smith
Even Prebudas, 3-4 Queen's College, 5-1 Flora.			
2.0 MECCA BOOKMAKERS' HURDLE (Handicap: £7,044; 2m.)			
301	222023-1	Sarcos Light (D) (H. Joel, R. Turner)	6-12-1 A. Turnbull
302	3121-22	Peterhof (D) (H. Gould, F. Walswyn)	5-11-4 W. Smith
303	222012	Barstion (D) (Mrs S. Jones, M. H. Besterby)	7-11-4 J. O'Neill
304	3121-22		

3.30 DECEMBER HURDLE (Handicap : £1,394 : 2m 5f 75yd)

603	00210-0	Lisarcamba (Lord Vestey), D. Nicholson, 6-11-9	A. Webb 5
604	0012-0	Winklow Bay (C. Spencer), A. Nisore, 7-11-8	Mr G. Moore 7
605	0010-0	Winklow Bay (E. Hughes), Courage, 7-11-8	Mr G. Moore 7
606	0200-0	Fighting Taffy (C. E. Upton), J. Dixon, 10-11-8	F. Burgess 8
608	0-1-122	Jan Staver (Mrs R. Whitaway), J. Gifford, 7-11-8	R. Champion 10

Shifting Gold could be Bailey's last winner

to the natives. Practically no leading world sport now has developed in this manner. The only exception is tennis, which has been introduced to the natives by the British.

Practically all the sports have once again become active in the spread of a sporting gospel. Spain now sends athletes to fight bullfights. Their domestic players have multiplied to the point where, in certain cases, the British Bowling Federation (BBF), who in turn have now brought the English Bowling Association (EBA) into the picture, are yet to be beaten, percentagewise.

Individual players, will shortly be taking up bowls for the first time. They have been and will continue to be, a useful sport, could even serve as a useful medium for bowls to instill one of the most important of all sports and governing body impracticable. Any new organization, ideally, should have a wide membership, the British Crown Green Bowls Association with its unique form.

Nobody knows the result of the most famous game, perhaps, in bowls history: the one Sir Francis Baines played against the Maharajah of Mysore before the latter's death.

will stage a thrilling competition in the twelfth Fukuoka international marathon, to be run in Fukuoka, Kyushu Island on Sunday.

A field of 84 runners from 11 countries will start the grueling 42.95 kilometre race at noon from the Higashi Station.

Thompson, 28, who was second behind the winner Jerome Clayton of Canada last year, and holds the world's fastest marathon time of 2 hr 9 min 55 sec, says he hopes to obtain something as a "flycatcher" for the Moscow Olympics.

Thompson, 20, is seeking his fourth triumph this year in leading international races. He won the Kyoto marathon in February, Amsterdam marathon in May and New York City marathon in June.

Year's Fukuoka marathon because of injuries, led set for his first victory in the 1988 marathon. He says: "The problem is how to keep the pace the last five kilometres. If I can keep my pace after 35 kilometres, I can win." Thompson won the 10,000 and 5,000 metre gold medals in the Merit at Montreal Olympics. He was twentieth third in the New York marathon.

Thompson, 28, who has been in Japan for two years, says he had not yet completely recovered from the leg trouble. But the time, I'm in top shape," Japan's Takashi Sato, the winner of the 1987 Fukuoka marathon, said. Sato, 30, of the Japanese National Team, Kyocera, Czechoslovakia last year, is Japan's best hope.

Geoffrey Thompson, Rogers and Viren, seven foreigners have been

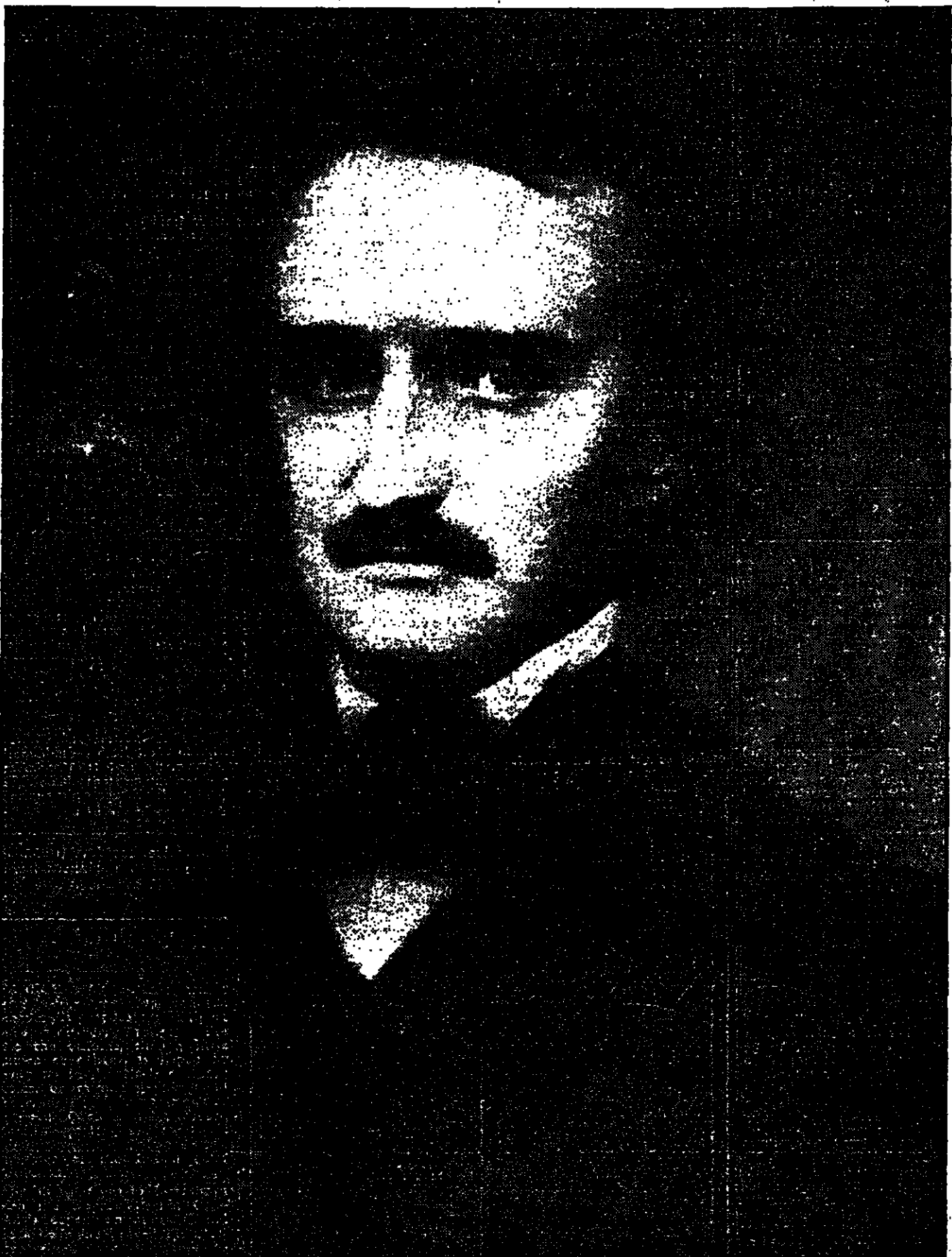
Saturday Review

An English upbringing

Edgar Allan Poe in London / by David Sinclair



Above: Elizabeth Arnold Poe, Edgar's mother
Right: Poe in 1848



Photographs by courtesy of the Poe Foundation, Inc.



Above: Frances Allan, Poe's adoptive mother
Below: John Allan



A reader coming to Edgar Allan Poe's tales of mystery and horror for the first time could easily be forgiven for thinking that he was an Englishman rather than an American writer. His elaborate, even luxurious, style, his backdrops of ruined castles and palaces with their rich but tasteless draperies, his damp and misty landscapes, his obsession with ancestry and tradition—all have the feel, almost the smell, of England. Much of this is derivative, borrowed from English and other European writers, but there can be no doubting the influence on Poe of the four-and-a-half boyhood years he spent in England.

Edgar Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 19, 1809, but his roots lay firmly in the British Isles. On his father's side, his forebears were immigrants in colonial America, having originated in County Cavan, in what is now the Irish Republic. His mother, Elizabeth Arnold Poe, was a London-born actress whose own mother had been a leading player at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, in the 1740s.

Edgar knew little of his parents. When he was barely a year-old his father, David Poe, disappeared, leaving his wife with two children to care for and a third on the way. David, born in Baltimore, Maryland, had given up a promising career in the law in favour of a roving, rootless and precarious existence on the stage—a life for which he was not entirely unsuited. He had met and married Elizabeth Arnold while they were both working with a theatre company in Virginia.

Elizabeth was an accomplished actress and popular with audiences, but David, in the words of one critic who saw him, was not fit to play anything more than walk-on parts, and his lack of talent did nothing to help his wife's career. The couple joined a company in Boston, but success eluded them and they sank into poverty. The financial strain was increased with the birth of their first child, Henry, in 1807, a year after their marriage. And by the time Edgar was born they were in desperate circumstances, with David drinking heavily and begging, usually in vain, from wealthy relatives.

When Edgar was two months old, the family moved to New York in the hope of better fortunes. Elizabeth did quite well, but David became a target for America's fiercest theatre critics, who attacked not only his bad acting but his drunkenness. In 1810, Elizabeth became pregnant again. This was too much for David. Faced on the one hand with the venom of the critics and on the other with the prospect of yet another mouth to feed, he gave up the struggle and vanished.

In one sense, this was the best thing that could have happened to Elizabeth. It was difficult bringing up three children single-handed, but at least her career was free of the burden of her husband's role of talent. She moved to "Chinatown, Virginia," and became the darling of the theatre audiences there. The stress of hard work and poverty had weakened her, however, and in December 1811—when she was 24 years old—she died of consumption.

After Elizabeth's death, Henry Poe was sent to live with his grandparents in Baltimore, the youngest child—a girl named Rosalie—went to a family in Richmond, and Edgar was formally adopted by John Allan, a Richmond tobacco merchant, and his childless wife, Frances. The adoption forged another link between Edgar and the Old World. Allan was a Scot, born in Ayrshire in 1780, who had emigrated to America as a teenager to work for his uncle, William Galt, one of the wealthiest merchants in Richmond.

By the time he adopted Edgar, Allan was a successful businessman. He had left his uncle's firm in 1800 to set up a tobacco exporting and hardware company with another of Galt's employees, Charles Ellis, and the company had prospered. Allan had later married Frances, the daughter of an established Virginia family, and become an American citizen, though he assiduously kept up contacts with his relatives in Scotland and nursed ambitions to return to Britain to set up a branch of his firm in London.

Allan got his chance to cross the Atlantic after the inconclusive and somewhat farcical War of 1812 between England and the United States, which arose because the English navy seized American cargoes on the high seas. American merchants, starved of business by the war, rushed to expand their operations when the peace treaty was signed in December 1814, and by the summer of the following year Allan had completed plans for his London venture. On June 23, 1815, he sailed for England, with Edgar and Frances's unmarried sister Nancy, set off on the month-long voyage to England.

They landed at Liverpool. For six-year-old Edgar, the sights and sound of the bustling city, its narrow streets and stone buildings contrasting sharply with the open spaces and wooden mansions of Virginia, would have been exciting enough, but they were followed by an even greater adventure: a coach trip to Scotland to visit the Allan relatives. They travelled up the west coast and crossed the Scottish border north of Carlisle, making their way through Dumfriesshire and Ayrshire to Irvine, a village a few miles inland from the Firth of Clyde. It may have been memories of the English Lakeland or the Scottish glens through which they passed that prompted Poe to write, many years later, a poem called "The Lake".

In the spring of youth it was my lot
To haunt of the wide world a spot
The house I could not love the less—
So lovely was the loneliness
Of a wild lake, with black rock bound,
And the tall pines that towered around.

After a few days in Irvine staying with John Allan's sisters, the visitors moved east to Kilmarnock to see more relatives. The good-hearted Scots must have received their long lost brother with a show of traditional hospitality, for Frances Allan was, in her own words, "so bewildered with wonder" that she could not bring herself to write home. By this time, though, the northern autumn was far advanced and the damp atmosphere did not agree with the Virginians. When they arrived in London on October 10, after a voyage that must have been "arduous and uncomfortable" journey via Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Sheffield, Frances was obliged to retire to bed with a bad cold and sore throat, while the rest of the family felt "curiously dissatisfied".

They took furnished lodgings at 47 Southampton Row in Bloomsbury, pleasant and comfortable, but inconvenient for Allan's work since there was no room to set up an office, and expensive at six guineas a week. Indeed, the high price of everything in England at that time dismayed and alarmed the visitors, and Frances kept a sharp eye on the budget.

The Napoleonic wars had ended in the summer of 1815, but it had cost the British dearly: by 1816 the annual interest payments on the National Debt amounted to more than £30m, and the Tory government led by the Earl of Liverpool pushed taxation up to a crippling level. Tea, sugar, tobacco, beer, soap, candles, paper—the excise man, it seemed, could not keep his hands off anything. Prices soared: bread cost a shilling a loaf, an enormous sum for those days. In short, it was the worst possible time to set up a new business. Allan wrote: "If I get through the year I hope I shall not see such another." Nancy wrote home to say they were unhappy in London.

Edgar, however, was too busy to be unhappy. He had been enrolled in a boarding school at 146 Sloane Street, Chelsea, run by two sisters named Dubourg—a name Poe recalled when he gave it to a character in *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*. Difficult as things were, John Allan spared no expense when it came to Edgar's schooling. Master Allan, as he was known at the time, did not sleep in a dormitory at the Dubourg's school, but had the luxury of a separate bed at an extra guinea a term. The school bills were a little more than £35 a year.

By the autumn of 1817, Edgar was old enough to be sent to a proper English public school, the Manor House at Stoke Newington, which was then only a village. It was run by the Rev John Bransby, a gentleman and scholar in the best traditions of eighteenth century England. He was well versed in classics, an amateur botanist and horticulturalist, an energetic sports-

man, and a person with a magnetic instinct for collecting scraps of information on all manner of subjects. Poe, looking back 20 years later, described him well in one of his finest stories, *William Wilson*:

With how deep a spirit of wonder and perplexity was I wont to regard him from our remote pew in the gallery, as, with step solemn and slow, he ascended the pulpit! This reverend man, with countenance so demurely benign, with robes so glossy and so clerically flowing, with wig so minutely powdered, so rigid and so vast—could this be he who, of late, with sour visage, and in snuffy habiliments administered, ferule in hand, the draconian laws of the academy?

Bransby, questioned long afterwards by a Poe admirer and former pupil of the Manor House, classified Edgar Allan as "wayward and wilful", though he did admit that Poe was "a quick and clever boy", who, by the time he left the school, could speak French, had a working knowledge of Latin, and "was far better acquainted with history and literature than many boys of a more advanced age who had had greater advantages than he had had".

But it is Poe himself who gives us the clearest picture of his schooldays in England, even though it is somewhat distorted through embellishment necessary to the substance of the story. *William Wilson* is a classic study of the doppelgänger, the ghostly "double" which can haunt the troubled mind: in this case the "double" is the personification of Wilson's conscience, which first manifests itself at school:

A large, rambling, Elizabethan house, in a stony-looking village of England, where a vast number of gigantic and gnarled trees, and where all the houses were excessively ancient. In truth, it was a dream-like and spirit-something place, that venerable old town. At this moment, in fancy, I feel the refreshing chilliness of the deeply-shadowed avenues, the fragrance of its thousand shrubberies, and thrill anew with undefinable delight, at the deep hollow note of the church-bell, breaking, each hour, with sullen and sudden roar, upon the stillness of the dusky atmosphere in which the fretted Gothic steeple lay imbedded and asleep.

In fact the Manor House was no such thing. The school took its name from the real Manor House, which stood across the road, and the building inhabited by Mr Bransby's boys was rather plain, if not ugly. Gothic intricacies ascribed to it by Poe in his tale were necessary to his creation of an air of menace. His description of the classroom and the life of the school, however, is likely to be more factual:

The school-room was the largest in the house—I could not help thinking in the world. It was very long, narrow and dimly lit, with pointed Gothic windows and a ceiling of oak. In a room of this kind, the atmosphere was a square enclosure of eight or ten feet, comprising the sum of the "domine" of our principal, the Reverend Mr Bransby. It was a solid structure, with many doors, snorer than open, which in the absence of the "domine", we would all have willingly perished by the pines of the "domine". In other angles were two other similar boxes, far less reverenced, indeed, but still greatly matters of awe. One of these was the pulpit of the "classical" under, one of the "English and mathematical".

The grounds were extensive, and a high and solid brick wall, topped with a bed of mortar and broken glass, encompassed the whole. This prison-like rampart formed the limit of our domain: beyond it we saw but thrice a week—once every Saturday afternoon, when, attended by two ushers, we were permitted to take brief walks in a body through some of the neighbouring fields—and twice during Sunday, when we were paraded in the same formal manner to the morning and evening service in the one church of the village.

The morning's awakening, the nightly summons to bed; the comings, the recitations; the periodical half-holidays, the perambulations; the playground, with its broils, its pastimes, its intrigues—these, by a mental acuity long forgotten, were made to involve a wilderness of sensation, a world of rich incident, a universe of varied emotion, of excitement the most passionate and spirit stirring.

What was provided in terms of actual education and care can be seen from the following quarterly bill:

Manor House School,
Stoke Newington, Essex 1818

J. Allan Esqr for Master Allan	
To the Revd John Bransby	
Board & Education	£ 8. 6
Washing	11. 6
Single Bed	2. 0
Allowance	2. 0
Pew & Chary Sermon	3. 6
Books, Stationery, &c.	14. 11
French	2. 0
Dancing	2. 0
Shoemaker	1. 5
Hairdresser	2. 0
Sundries	1. 0
Apothecary	13. 0
Please to pay to Messrs Silks Smith & Co	£33. 2. 11

The apothecary's account apparently concerned an injury to Edgar's hand, for attached to Bransby's account was one from Thos. Smith & Son of Stoke Newington for "Mas. Allan (sic) as Mr Bransby's Dress—Hand" on August 31, 1818, and "Ointment & Lin" on September 16. Also interesting is the shoemaker's bill, which seems to show that Edgar was pretty heavy on his feet—he had his shoes mended on August 25 and again on both September 21 and 25.

In all, from the beginning of 1818 to the spring of 1820, John Allan paid out almost £250 for Edgar's education at the Manor House School, and he seems to have taken pride in the boy, telling a relative in Virginia that "Edgar is growing wonderfully and enjoys a good reputation as both willing and able to receive instruction" and "he is a very fine boy and a good scholar".

John Allan had given up the family's lodgings in the summer of 1817 and had taken a house at 39 Southampton Row—another English memory that remained with Edgar, who used the address in his comic story *Why the Little Frenchman Wears his Hat in a Sing*. Frances had spent some time at Cheltenham Spa and later stayed at Dawlish, in Devon, but the family was together at Christmas 1818 when Edgar came home for the holidays. It was probably quite a jolly time, for there were signs of better days ahead as the country enjoyed something of a commercial boom. The economic revival was short-lived, however. The year 1819—memorable for the "Peterloo Massacre" of protesting workers in Manchester—saw a return to financial crisis, and the government's decision to adhere to the gold standard effectively lowered the purchasing power of money.

John Allan was within a whisker of bankruptcy by the end of the year; he wrote to his partner, Charles Rowe: "Please to bear in mind that I have only about £100 here in the world." He had no choice but to wind up the English end of the business and go home, though that in itself was no easy task. The company was heavily in debt, and on the personal level Mrs Allan had the greatest aversion to the sea and nothing but dire necessity could entice her aboard ship. It was not until the end of May 1820 that Allan managed to sell his effects, settle the company's debts and get the family north to Liverpool to await a passage to America.

At the beginning of June he wrote to Edgar: "The Martha Capt Stretchly will not sail before Wednesday, next the 14th inst. . . Mrs Allan is in better health than usual. Ann (Nancy) is quite well, so is Edgar. I for myself was never better." The prospect of returning home had done wonders for them all, and it must have been with great relief that they watched the English coast fading away into the distance behind their ship. Edgar, who loved sea travel and would later often describe it in his stories, was probably in a state of high excitement over the voyage, and there is no evidence that he had any regrets at leaving England. Certainly his writings betray no particular love or regard for the mother country, though they were influenced by the thoroughness and discipline of an English education, albeit brief, and the more subtle effects wrought by life as a part of the world so very different in experience, tradition, appearance and atmosphere from the America at which he was to spend the rest of his days.

It remains a matter for conjecture whether the stay in England contributed to Poe's later restlessness in America; his failure to settle down at university, for instance, and his lifelong impatience with a society which, it is fair to say, was less cultured and in some respects less civilized than the England of the early nineteenth century. Edgar was never very impressed by the democracy on which his fellow-countrymen so prided themselves. He compared it to mob rule and wrote that "they started with the queerest ideas that all men are born free and equal". It may well be that he began to form such attitudes while enjoying the advantages of the class-ridden society of Georgian England.

This article is adapted from *Edgar Allan Poe: by David Sinclair*, to be published by Faber next Thursday at £6.95. It will be reviewed that day on *Book Page* by Sir William Haley.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

Travel

Fairytale country

Once upon a time I was standing in a small museum in the Danish town of Odense, when that looked like a microscopic James Cagney came wandering over and asked, in a broad American accent, what I thought of "all this junk".

The junk he referred to were shelves of books containing the fairy stories of Hans Christian Andersen, translated into just about every language in the world. You see, as Andersen's birthplace, Odense, is like many other towns, it was paying homage to the author of the approved fairy tales. Until the small and aggressive American schoolboy had popped up, I had been gently wandering from room to room without a care in the world. I recall telling the little fellow that anything read throughout the world cannot be dismissed as "junk" and moved off to look at the other exhibits. With grim determination and a queer grin he tagged along, noting sharply that Andersen's portrait did not look anything like Danny Kaye. I was beginning to despair when we came to a room containing some of the writer's personal possessions, including his travelling kit. There, in a box was a neatly coiled length of stout rope.

Andersen, you see, had a real fear of being trapped in a strange house or hotel bedroom or fire, so wherever he went he took his rope along, so ensuring an escape through an upstairs window if the need arose.

For some reason this turned the Danish writer into a "real smart guy" as far as the young American was concerned. He thoroughly enjoyed the rest of his morning and was waving happily as his sightseeing coach pulled away. On its side was written "Fairytale Tours".

If you have three days to spare next time you are in Copenhagen, those "Fairytale Tours" set out regularly round the circuit from early May until late September. They take in a few castles and museums as well as the fascinating town of Legoland at Billund in Jutland. This is a town in miniature, on a 30,000 square foot site, built entirely of Lego blocks. The three day tour next year will cost 1,220 kroner which, at present exchange rates, is just over 400. Another deal—the Hans Andersen Coach Tour—is offered by DFDS from £108, based on Odense, this six day tour visits many places of interest in the area including the Viking ship at Ladby, Funen, the open air museum and Roskilde Castle.

Just after I left Odense, incidentally, I fell to thinking about Hans Andersen and his coil of rope, having read the fire emergency instructions on the back of my bedroom door. For the benefit of their foreign visitors, the Danes have obligingly translated their instructions into English, with disturbing effect.

It is the only official notice I have ever read that actually says "Keep calm and collected" in its first paragraph. But since Odense is surely what Hans

Andersen had in mind when he packed his rope. According to this you must "retain presence of mind" if trapped in your hotel room with flames and smoke blocking your escape along the corridor. Nor only that. The notice requires you to "signify your presence to the fire brigade in a composed manner".

Now just try saying "Would you please help me, I am an English tourist" (or, for that matter "Vi De Venligst hjælpe mig, jeg er Engelsk turist") in a composed manner when your pyjamas are on fire. I must not digress. I wanted to get off the Fairytale tale and talk about the wide choice of holidays to Denmark that will be available in the summer of 1978.

DFDS, the company which runs ferry services from Helsingør and Newcastle to Denmark (and which will be introducing a service to Copenhagen, Sweden, in 1978) is offering a number of such holidays at prices which include the sea crossing with cabin accommodation and, where applicable, the cost of transporting a car.

For those who want freedom, a self-drive holiday from £181 lets you choose your own itinerary and select where to stay from 13 first-class hotels in different parts of the country. All the reservations are made in advance for you and the 10-day holiday gives you seven nights in Denmark. Like most other DFDS arrangements, this holiday can be extended. There is a 400-mile motorway tour from £160 and a two-centre holiday from £185, the latter giving you four nights at the Hotel Marina at Vedbaek on the northern outskirts of Copenhagen and three nights at the Menkebjerg Hotel, occupying a hilltop site overlooking the Vejle Fjord in Jutland. There are motorway holidays using traditional Danish inns, and self-catering holidays as well as the extremely popular farmhouse holidays. These have enjoyed considerable success and are based on farms in Jutland and Funen. The basic holiday of 10 days with seven nights on a farm costs from £86 but can be extended. Remember, the prices I quote include the ferry fare and car transportation.

If you do not choose to take the car, then a number of holidays are available by sea and rail travel, including an attractive tour by rail which includes stays in Odense, Copenhagen and Aarhus from £174. Also most attractive is the riding holiday—a week in Denmark from £219. You ride horses through the Jutland countryside, with overnight stops at tent camps. Non-riders may go on the holiday travelling in restored horse-drawn carriages.

For those who want to venture farther afield there are holidays which combine time in Denmark with excursions to Sweden, Norway, Iceland, my overall impression of Denmark, 1978, is that there is the widest possible choice of holiday options. The country is becoming increasingly popular among British fishermen, some



A young Dane cradles a goat at an Odense market

of whom I met during my last visit at Svstrup Kro, an old inn on the banks of the river Gudenå, a little north of Silkeborg. They assured me that the sport and the catches are first class.

You should be able to obtain information about all these holidays from a travel agent, or from DFDS at Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4BX. The Danish Tourist Board is a source of general information about the country, and has a London office at Sceptre House, 169/173 Regent Street, W1R 8PY.

John Carter

Bridge

Fashions in bidding

Every magazine continues to provide in its monthly bidding competition a question to which there is no satisfactory answer, shattering the problem arises in a rubber where there is a partnership. The question-master does not understand that the score must influence the choice of opening and response (I am assuming the absence of competitive bidding, which is a change of suit does not invariably convey more strength. International masters continue to give illogical reasons for their answers, possibly because they are tied to a system devised for duplicate; but in the days when international contracts were infrequent, there was more justification for differences of opinion.

I have selected a question from the distant past because it illustrates the confusion of partners who do not agree when a normal response discloses a minimum holding and they are unable to be sure whether they are expected to look for slam. At game all, North asks 4♠, North who has demanded a second response from his partner in the following sequence.

North South
♠ 10 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

South holds ♠ A 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

South assumes his partner to hold an irregular distribution such as 4-3-3-1 (or conceivably 5-6-1-1) because he has appeared with the lower-ranking major which indicates strength while showing caution in keep-

ing down the bidding. The fundamental question, on which a satisfactory answer must depend, is whether every bid must be regarded as encouraging. Can one of the partners sign off with a minimum repetition of his suit?

It looks easy enough for South to rebid Three Diamonds, disregarding slam prospects but ensuring the rubber; if he is more ambitious he might raise to Three Spades. I cannot imagine that a jump to Four Diamonds will get him anywhere beyond driving North to find a third bid on a hand which may be weak in points—where Three Spades would be passed out unless North held the ♠K or ♠A in addition to powerful suits.

Of the 47 answers provided by the experts you will be surprised to know that 25 were Four Diamonds, 12 Three Diamonds, eight gave Three Spades and two replied Three Clubs. Even in those days there were players who fancied that any bidding problem could be solved by the "fourth suit forcing", although here its introduction is meaningless. Stranger still was the explanation of his support for Three Diamonds by an expert who seemed to regard a bid in every situation as forcing irrespective of the partnership: "No good rubber player will let me hang in Three Diamonds if our combined hands will produce a slam somewhere." And that statement, I regret to assert, is sheer nonsense.

At any stage in the auction

one partner must be in charge of the bidding and will continue to bid constructively only if he visualizes his partner's holding. If South wishes to take charge he must bid either Three Spades which confirms North's suit, or jump to Four Diamonds, guaranteeing that he will not lose more than one trick in Diamonds. I always regard bidding between mismatching hands as demanding extra caution, and I should expect exchanges between them to die unless the key honours which are lacking by one partner are held by the other.

At this early period in the development of system when every bid was regarded as proof of further strength, a 16-point No trump was de rigueur, and so opening One Club could be the weakest bid possible. It was not unusual to support strongly on Three trumps, a raise which would be denounced today as incorrect because we have learnt to reckon our values meticulously. In the absence of conventional aids, gains contracts were frequently attempted with Seven trumps only between declarer and partner. Perhaps they played the cards better than we do, because they continued to bid in this way until long after more scientific methods had been adopted. The next deal may carry some readers back more than a quarter of a century. (See next column.)

North would normally have bid One No trump and been raised to Three No trumps; but American scientific methods

which were not fully understood had begun to penetrate the London clubs and the auction took this form:

North South East West
♠ 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Having opened One Club and received a positive response, North sought to give encouragement towards game. Over the intervening Two Diamonds, he considered a single raise to be inadequate because he held more than the minimum for such a bid. After hearing Three Spades and in the expectation that North would be short in diamonds and not in trumps, South made the natural progress to Four Spades and achieved what appears to be an impossible contract.

West led the ♠K which South allowed to win and followed with the ♠Q on which East discarded the ♠3. South took with the ♠A and cashed his three top trumps finding to his dismay that West held the long trump. His problem is to avoid the loss of both a diamond and a heart, which seems inevitable because the clubs do not divide 3-3. Declarer saw that he must persuade West to ruff one of East's tricks so that he could turn his trump into a tenth trick; he was helped by his count of West's hand.

At trick five South led a heart to the ♠K, and he learnt that West held only two unknown cards; if these two cards were clubs he was home. He played ♠A, ♠K and led his small club to dummy. West could not afford to ruff and discarded a diamond, so declarer played dummy's losing fourth club and discarded a diamond; East could only return a heart. West was again forced to duck his partner's lead, because he was otherwise using his trump to deceive his partner of a winner. Declarer could now play and ruff dummy's losing diamond, and West was finally compelled to ruff his partner's trick.

Edward Mayer

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Shylock revisited

One surefire element to warm up the cockles of Broadway's heart is what might be termed the Jewish play. In their very different ways two examples of the genre have just opened in New York, Arnold Wesker's *The Merchant* and William Gibson's *Golda*.

Looking first at the Wesker, by far the more considerable of the two, one is first prompted to ask: what would Shakespeare have said. The question is neither frivolous nor irrelevant. In a very real way *The Merchant* is Mr Wesker's reply to Shakespeare's exploration of Shakespeare's antisemitism, itself fairly conventional for Elizabethan times, and his defence of Shylock. The very idea sizzles with possibilities. It is, after all, a question which every modern production of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* has had to face—how do you explain Shylock, or rather Shakespeare's view of Shylock, to contemporary audiences? This indeed was Wesker's own point of departure—he considered a production of the play that would give Shylock, as it were, equal time.

The more he considered such a course, the more impossible it seemed. Luckily for us Wesker, frustrated at making Shakespeare see dramatic reason, was spurred to write his own version of the play, which is how *The Merchant* came into being. It is useless to attempt any real comparison between Shakespeare and Wesker. The twin themes of the bond of a pound of flesh that Antonio gives Shylock and, as a sub-plot, the choice of Shylock to select a guilder for Portia were, of course, stolen by Shakespeare in the first place and, naturally, have now been appropriated by Wesker in the second.

In this fascinating gloss on Shakespeare, Wesker sees Shylock and the merchant, Antonio—Jew and Christian—as close friends, indeed loving friends, who would literally do anything for each other. It is a friendship strengthened by the prevailing antisemitism of Venice, a fact of their lives which both recognize but ignore. The bond itself—that terrible pound of flesh—is nothing but a harsh joke by Shylock to show a mocking contempt for Venetian law, a law that insists that in any transaction between Jew and Christian a written bond must exist.

Wesker's treatment of these Shakespearean themes is in its way fascinating. There are lovely resonances of the origi-

nal play here—such as when Bassanio coldly contemplates the caskets, trying to second-guess the whimsical madness that led a father to let his daughter be thus won. Or again when Wesker at last quotes Shakespeare directly with the "Has not a Jew eyes" speech, which he puts into the mouth of the play's unsympathetic character, only to have Shylock declare: "I will not have pleas made on behalf of my humanity." Shylock's pride is for justice—the consideration that in his way, he is as good as Gentile, he sees for the patronizing clap-trap it is.

This, after a fallow period, is perhaps Wesker's finest play. No matter that his sense of period sometimes deserts him—so he has Shylock crying "I love it" or saying "Go down Shylock to the bottom of the class"—most of the writing is brilliant, with masterly sensibility. The director, John Dexter, helped by the happy coincidence of Wesker's own costumes by Jocelyn Herbert, works wonders of directorial clarity and compression. The trial scene is a gem of staging, and the hurly-burly of the Venice ghetto is poetically evoked.

The acting, while at times almost dominated by the ghost of Zero Mostel, who should have played Shylock, swoops up to the occasion. Joseph Leon's Shylock, proud, gentle, quizzical, is finely matched by Sir John Clemen's splendid Antonio, with its clipped tones and patrician urbanity, and the gleaming intelligence of Robert Maxwell as Portia. The play raises issues and risks arguments and it seems with life as a consequence. It is regrettable that Broadway decided to reject *The Merchant* and that it closed after a handful of performances.

There is also plenty of life in *Golda*. The time is October 6, 1973. The place is Tel Aviv. The event is the opening of the Yom Kippur war, and we have started with this new play by William Gibson which almost disarmingly calls itself "a partial portrait". Partial it is, the humanization of history is often a dehumanizing process—and this is seen in what Mr Gibson has attempted and risked with this dramatic biography of that Israeli woman for the world, Golda Meir. Of course, here the play is not the thing—the thing is the portrait. For Mr Gibson is not merely showing us the playwright in the role of historian, but also the playwright in the role of portrait painter.

The character of Golda her-

self, it seems, is everything, and the actress playing Golda sits still, ye nerry, at the centre of the action, with everyone around her like so much furniture. It is fortunate that the person doing the sitting, offering, as it were, the impersonation, is that magnificent actress, Anne Bancroft—and most of what virtues the evening passes are either transmitted through her or provided by her. She wanders on in a simple dress. A little stoop, a little limp, a head set on shoulders like a knowing bird, an impression enhanced by a wise beak-like nose. The eyes are sometimes glazed with pain, more often alive with the wayward humour of the world. The manner is wry and jaunty, and the voice is dry with irony, and hardened by a mixture of hope and suffering. A survivor's voice. A survivor's manner. Miss Bancroft pins her character to the stage with the deft accuracy of a cartoon. What we see is both recognizable Golda Meir but also a caricature of Miss Bancroft, playing Golda—it is two-dimensional acting of consummate craft.

The play ranges itself unthinkingly around her. There is a theme—victory in the war—and the events of that war are, more or less, chronologically unfolded, as we get the answer to Golda's first question: "How does a woman decide between generals?" But decide she does, and the dramas of the war, Golda's concern for life and for peace, provide the running continuity of the play. From this base Mr Gibson makes commando raids into other territory—telling in flashbacks the story of Golda's life, and, for the two run parallel, the story of the founding in our time of the state of Israel. The story, or stories, Mr Gibson has to tell is, or are, noble enough in all conscience. Yet the telling is diffuse. Would not a film, or an ordinary written biography, have covered this ground more fully, more revealingly, than is possible in the confines of this play? There is also a lack of tension here, an absence of genuine insight, and too unrelenting a tone, perhaps derived from busting events, unthinkingly met with ironic stoicism.

Nevertheless, Arthur Penn, with brilliant use of visuals, has staged this mosaic of familiar vignettes with vigour and a fluidity that almost makes the film the play should have been. Even so, for those wanting a view of the woman and her times deeper than sassy quips and obvious sentiment, *Golda* must be regarded as an opportunity missed.



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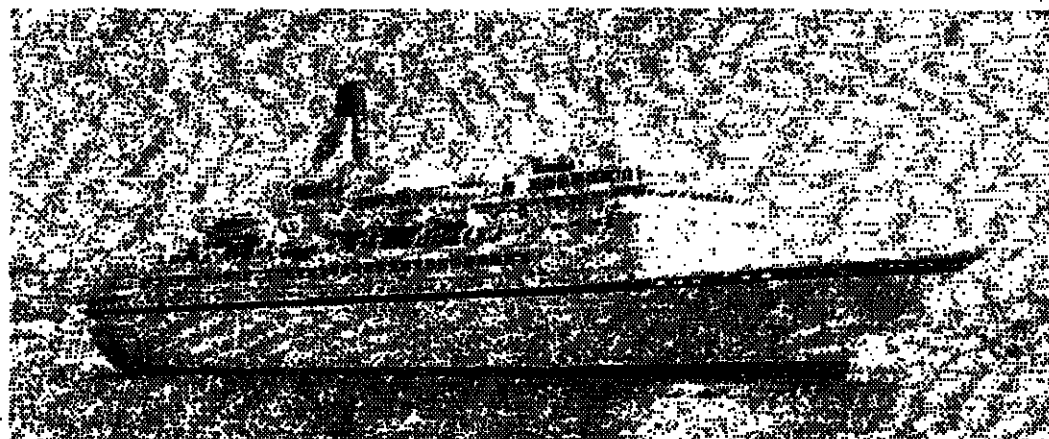
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How Mr Begin has changed the gun for the olive branch

Everyone who has been watching the dramatic turn of events in the Middle East wants to know one thing about Mr Begin. What can he give away? Any hint that the Israeli Prime Minister lets slip on his official visit to London, which begins with talks at Downing Street this evening, will be picked up and studied avidly around the world.

It is certainly an extraordinary change that the former Irgun terrorist leader, now in London as a Prime Minister, seems to hold the key to peace in his hands. The contrast between the gun and the olive branch could not be more complete.

The key question, reviewing Mr Begin's attempt to respond in a positive way to the generous overtures made by President Sadat, is not, of course, peace with Egypt. As Israelis have often admitted, they have, in one obvious sense, no quarrel with Egypt.

Sinat does not have any mystical importance to Israeli opinion, notwithstanding its biblical association. In that sense, Israel does not have, and never has had, any emotional (as opposed to security) problem about returning Sinai to Egypt.

The same considerations apply to the Golan Heights, even though the security question is very different. The narrowness of the land in question, and psychological attitude of Syria, makes negotiation much harder. All the same, Mr Begin does not face any overwhelming problem of security in dealing with this area, either.

It is clear enough that the crux of his difficulties in drawing up a negotiating position concerns the West Bank, or as he refers to this area, Judea and Samaria. For Mr Begin, these names evoke a deep and mystical sense of Jewish history.

The Likud election manifesto seems, at first sight, to offer no chance of a compromise. It asserted Israel's moral claim to all of the "Land of Israel" and in particular emphasized that Judea and Samaria were regarded as an integral part of Israel.

Since becoming Prime Minister, however, Mr Begin has taken a rather more political and less emotive view. This is hardly surprising: most politi-



Mr Menachem Begin: more political, less emotive.

cians, when faced with the practicalities of office, find that life looks somewhat different. In his first speech to the Knesset he spoke of putting an end to bloodshed by sitting down at the negotiating table—which at least implied he felt there was something to negotiate after—and in a radio interview last September he said specifically that the frontiers will be determined in negotiations between Israel and her neighbours. While this begs the question of a homeland for the Palestinians, it makes it clear that the West Bank is not regarded as sacrosanct.

More significant, in elaborating these nuances, Mr Dayan, as Foreign Minister, has referred to the possibility of discussing the renewed division of the West Bank. It seems fair to conclude, since on these matters Mr Dayan speaks only after fully coordinating his position with Mr Begin, that the present Government would indeed be prepared to cede part of the West Bank—if a settlement really hinged on it.

Given these hints, some people who study Mr Begin's thought believe that his attitude to the West Bank is more flexible than is generally appreciated, and that what he wants is to assert Israel's right to live in the West Bank, not to hold it forever. In other words, if he

is looking for a way of responding to President Sadat on the fundamental issue of giving up land, which might then become a homeland for the Palestinians, he has already prepared the way.

By contrast, the problem of Jerusalem seems more manageable for as a single city, rather than a whole territory, it is so much easier to devise ways of combining authority for different functions.

In London, Mr Begin will not be revealing his hand in any direct way. He sees his visit as an opportunity to vindicate himself, to replace the reputation he has as a terrorist, by presenting himself as a statesman.

Britain has little direct influence on events in the Middle East, but in Israeli eyes, the British stand is important. Britain is in a position to influence opinion in the European Community and to moderate the hostile attitude, as Israelis see it, of France. Having enjoyed very warm personal relations with the leaders of Israel's Labour Party, Mr Callaghan intends to put Mr Begin's past behind him in their talks, and to start afresh.

David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

George Hutchinson

Strange how the City is being taken in by Labour

"I cannot for the life of me think of any reason why anyone should consider voting Conservative at the next general election. In terms of what Mrs Thatcher's Tories have to offer, we are already served by about as good as conservative government as we are likely to get."

Thus Mr Joe Rogay in a most interesting article published by the *Financial Times* on Tuesday. Mr Rogay reflects a fairly widespread view which has become particularly noticeable in the City. It is, I believe, a dangerous attitude. I say attitude, rather than assessment, because it seems to me to be ill-judged and superficial, not well reasoned.

True, Mr Rogay does go on to acknowledge the possibility of a Labour government (though he hardly appears to resist it with any great conviction) that "if Labour gets back with an overall majority next time the Conservative of the past will be the Liberals will be flung aside, while the IMF will anyhow be sent off because of all that revenue from the North Sea. Then Labour will move towards full-fledged socialism..."

To coin a phrase, he can say that again. To the extent that one can be sure of anything in life, we may suppose that this is what would happen. In all probability, and sooner rather than later, we would find ourselves exposed to the full canon of socialist doctrine with its vastly restrictive implications. The collectivists' society, the corporate state, would soon become a reality, since we are half-way there already.

That would be the prospect if enough of us were to succumb to the notion that a Callaghan (or Callaghan-like) administration is quite a good thing in conservative terms. Mr Callaghan is an illusionist. Given sufficient support, or popular acclaim, his act would lead to something immeasurably different.

Allow Labour another term, with a working majority, and you will quickly see the real face of socialism. Not even the "moderate"—the "Baldwinian"—Mr Callaghan would be able to disguise its true features, if only because he must one day realise that day may not be distant.

Who might succeed him? Mr Benn? Mr Shore? Neither is precisely conservative by instinct.

Yet in the City—and elsewhere—Mr Callaghan is practicing his art (or artfulness) with some success. All too many are being taken in by it. They are themselves deceived, and their real acceptance of his apparent "moderation" is deluding others, as if the middle way, in Mr Harold Macmillan's phrase, was to be secured in perpetuity by upholding James Callaghan.

The City is especially guilty, as I know from my own occasional (and otherwise congenial) excursions into its bank parlours and directors' dining rooms. As an entity, the City is so accomplished, and its conviction that one is surprised, not to say alarmed, by the political misjudgments to which its members seem so prone. They trade with all the world. They are often so wise in their commercial calculations. Yet in terms of domestic policy they are so often at sea.

To my mind, one thing is certain: if they become so beguiled by Labour as to withhold support from the Tories we shall all pay a heavy price before long—that is to say all those of us who would prefer to live in a freer society than a future Labour government could be expected to sustain.

Something of the same regrettable tendency may have affected the by-election in Bournemouth last week. Of course the Tories did well. But where did they do best? They did best in wards formerly inclined towards the Liberals, not in traditional Tory wards. Many Tories (it seems) held back. Disillusioned Liberals, on the other hand, turned out to support the Conservative candidate.

There is an important lesson here. People who are fundamentally opposed to socialism had better vote accordingly, and in the meantime behave accordingly. Otherwise they are liable to sell the pass. That is what it amounts to.

Any Tories who may think that they have Labour over a

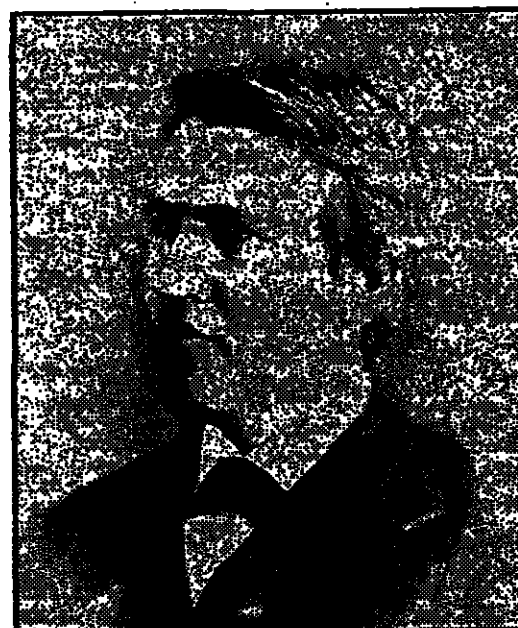
barrel in the appalling affair of the Crown Agents are deluding themselves, as they will discover before long.

While it is true that things were going wrong in 1967, when Labour was in office, the worst excesses occurred between 1970 and 1974 under the last Conservative Government. The earlier failings were as nothing compared with those of the latter period, the years of the scandalous property boom (or bubble) in which the Agents so recklessly allowed themselves to become enmeshed.

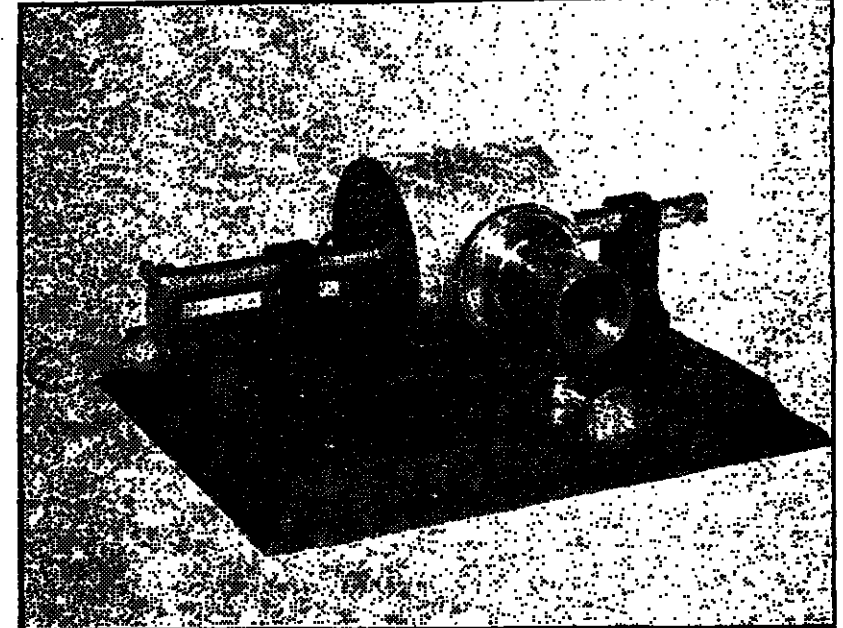
There was a lack of ministerial control. It is not as if ministers received no warning of the dangers inherent in what was going on: they were told, and have much to answer for. Only in one respect can the Tories conceivably benefit from this disgraceful episode: it surely demonstrates that business is best left to businessmen, not to bureaucrats or politicians. If the experience serves to curb the taste for public ownership it will have achieved some limited good.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

Edison, and the French phonograph connexion



Thomas Edison and his tinfoil phonograph: was he first?



after the event and announced by another hand with the date August 12, 1877, has given currency to this early date being accepted as the actual date of invention.

The discovery of the diaries of Charles Batchelor, an extremely close assistant and trusted friend of Edison's, in the early 1960s provided a medical entry for December 6, 1887, reads:

Finished the phonograph. Edison satisfied with this working model rushed off to New York to demonstrate the machine at the offices of the magazine the *Scientific American*. The first informed and accurate account of the phonograph appeared in the magazine on December 22, 1877, and was greeted by an enthusiastic public.

The two references to the phonograph in Edison's notebooks assume greater significance when one comes to consider the activities in 1877 of his rival claimant to the invention Charles Cros.

Cros, unlike Edison, was not a full time inventor. Yet by all accounts he was a brilliant and formidable man. Having mastered oriental languages at an early age he went on to be

admitted by his eighteenth birthday, as professor of chemistry at a school for the deaf and dumb. He soon left the school to pursue a medical course which he never finished, a fact that did not prevent him from improvising as a doctor. Cros was an academic where Edison was a technician. Edison was a tinkerer. Edison's work on the phonograph was a hobby, a pastime, a way of passing time. Cros's work on the phonograph was a serious study, a scientific experiment. Cros was a man of letters, a man of science, a man of letters. Edison was a man of letters, a man of science, a man of letters.

points. The account is signed and dated April 15, 1877, three months before Edison's aforementioned experiments. Unfortunately Cros could not present to the Académie a working model of the "paleophone" because one did not exist but he closed his account with a promise that he was attempting to bring the theory to material reality.

The letter presented to the Académie in April was not considered until the session of December 3, 1877, after which it received official sanction if not recognition by being inserted in their files.

In October of that year, Cros frustrated by the lack of attention from the Académie, saw published an article by *L'abbé Le Blanc* in a magazine called *La Semaine du Clergé* (October 10, 1877) which described Cros's paleophone theory.

When Edison in December announced his own phonograph Cros accused him of having blatantly copied from the article the device for which he was the rightful inventor. But the phonograph was patented under Edison's name and Cros's anger came to nothing.

Could Edison have seen the article describing Cros's work? Maybe. Edison did have a repu-

tation for developing and improving on other people's ideas. However it must be realised that many contemporary minds were being drawn to the problems involved in sound recording and reproduction. Equipment was obviously going to evolve from Bell's already vibrating diaphragms. If an able in France writing under the general heading *Le Monde des Sciences et des arts* could see the natural links between the two, then how much easier must have been for someone with Edison's capabilities and resources.

Even so, given that the telephone was an American invention, subsequent developments in sound recording and reproduction apparatus did seem to be occurring simultaneously in both America and France. However, it is beyond doubt that Cros did conceive of the paleophone theory months before Edison conceived of his own phonograph. In spite of this, one unequivocal fact remains, Cros's device existed on paper alone while Edison's with the resources of the workshop behind it, it became a working reality leading to the patent of December, 1877.

Michael Young

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After the elms—will we have to take the axe to the beeches?

The BBC recently reported that a new disease of beech trees appeared to be sweeping through the country. The *Times* was somewhat more guarded in its reports hinting that factors other than infectious agents might be responsible. Those of us in closer contact with trees have had the opportunity to look rather more carefully at the dying beech.

There has been confusion over the disease of beech trees, not that any one day can be set aside for such. An extent drawing of the phonograph executed by the inventor from memory sometime

(and to a lesser extent in 1975) apparently shown acute symptoms of distress until the summer of 1977, although some symptoms were observed in the two previous years. Professor of Forest Pathology at the University of Michigan, has made the following comment in a standard text book on the physiology of plants, including trees:

"Drought at a critical period one year may result in reduced food storage for utilization in growth the following year, and the effect on wood tissue can be appreciable for several years."

It should be emphasized that trees are remarkably resilient to depredations of climate; many of the beech now showing signs of distress have withstood the British climate for 150 years or more. Rainfall in the summer of 1975 was well below average and the drought of 1976 was exceptional. I am reliably informed by keen meteorological student that the total rainfall at Kew from May, 1975 to August, 1976 (477mm) was the lowest for that 16-month period since records started in 1698. Under such extreme conditions there were periods when transpiration (the passage of water upwards from the roots) in beech trees and others was very limited or even non-existent.

A number of factors can affect the uptake of water by trees. The availability of water in the soil is clearly important and as those who garden on sandy soils well know, they soon dry out. Even on clay soils water can be in short supply and the consequent shrinkage of clay may have

devastating effects on the foundations of buildings as a depth of several feet. Chalk soils on the other hand are rather better at conducting moisture from greater depths and drought stresses on trees growing on chalk may not be so great. Nevertheless drought symptoms have been observed to a varying degree on all soil types. They were greatest on trees of which the roots were often shallow rooted and less on species such as oak which are usually deeper rooting.

Evaporation of water from living trees takes place largely through the leaves which are also the vital sources of food production by photosynthesis. During hot weather leaves restrict the evaporation of water by closing their stomata, the small pores distributed all over their surfaces. The closure of stomata will also prevent the intake of carbon dioxide from the surrounding air and thereby exclude one of the materials essential for photosynthesis.

In the severe conditions which occurred during the summer of 1976, some leaves were actually shed, perhaps as a means of preventing evaporation and transpiration or perhaps because no moisture was available from below. Once transpiration was reduced or stopped so also was photosynthesis and food reserves normally built up during the summer months did not accumulate. Some trees, such as birch on dry sites, were unable to survive and died during 1976. Others such as beech were not killed at this time, but growth was reduced compared with normal and reserves were markedly depleted by the end of that season.

Fresh growth in the spring of 1977 demanded a further call on food reserves. Before the leaves had begun to expand and they did so at the expense of the reserves laid down in the previous season. Once the first leaves started to photosynthesize, there was less call on reserves and further growth could take place as new food materials were produced. However, the balance between the consumption and production varies through the season. In some tree species, such as many conifers, leaf production and stem elongation is largely complete early in the season. Some, such as birch and poplar, continue to produce new leaves and extension growth throughout the season and others such as beech fall between these extremes and have two main flushes of leaf production and extension growth, one in May and the other in July or August.

Growth in diameter or girth in all species normally continues throughout the season but when reserves are low as in 1977 following the summer drought of 1976 resources for such growth may be limited. Several scientists have reported marked reductions in the size of the annual growth ring (which gives a measure of diameter growth) of beech following drought in the previous season and a similar phenomenon has been observed in beech trees showing dieback of crowns during 1977. The timing of the appearance of dieback symptoms remains a matter for hypothesis—additional stresses which are limited to trees in July and August include high temperatures, some though not severe shortage of moisture in

soil and a second period of extension usually called "lammus growth".

Although the above explanation may appear complex, the scientists investigating these phenomena have suggested that many factors other than simply rainfall, low soil moisture and reduced food reserves may be involved in the reduction of annual ring widths. Indeed some tree physiologists could doubtless provide alternative explanations to the one given here. Nevertheless the "lammus" hypothesis does seem to fit in with many of the recorded observations and experiments.

No matter what the detailed explanation of the effects of drought might be, there is no doubt that some will not recover. Beech is a valuable timber tree and dead trees should be harvested before they deteriorate. Where there is a chance of recovery, indicated by the formation of healthy overwintering buds, the trees should of course remain.

The beech which are suffering the most severe effects of drought are often the older ones, some indeed planted in avenues or clumps in the era of Capability Brown and other great landscape architects. The great land owners in the eighteenth century were able to plan and afford great tree-lined vistas. Government agencies, such as the Countryside Commission and Forestry Commission now provide grants for tree planting. But, will one wonder, can make a small contribution to the landscape?

D. A. Burdett

The author is a forest pathologist.

هكذا ان الاصل



A LARGE MAJORITY FOR MURDER

It is to the credit of the South African legal system that it still provides for the holding of a public inquest into the death of a political detainee, and that it allows the most stringent and unfettered cross-examination of members of the police force and other state officials by those representing the family of the dead man. Particularly creditable was the brilliant and fearless conduct of Mr Sydney Kantridze, who has done honour to his profession. One would like to see a university recognize his conduct with an honorary doctorate. Virtually every other aspect of the whole Biko affair is, however, shrouded in shame and dishonour.

The astonishing insensitivity as well as the stupidity of the Minister of Justice, Mr Kruger, the appalling callousness and inhumanity of police behaviour to Mr Biko (and therefore, it can be assumed, to other detainees) even if the incidents resulting in his death are not taken into account, the evasions, contradictions, inconsistencies and downright lies contained in the police evidence to the inquest, the stretched misconduct of at least two doctors in the case, whose treatment of Mr Biko and subordination of medical ethics to the wishes of the security police suggest that they are unfitted to be members of their profession, have all now been joined in discredit by the decision of the inquest magistrate that Mr Biko's death was not the result of any criminal act.

The magistrate had three main options. He could have decided that Mr Biko had died as a result of being assaulted by one or more security policemen. That is what counsel representing Mr Biko's family had asked him to do. That

verdict was the only one which would have been consistent with the evidence before the court, which though circumstantial (the only living eye-witnesses were members of the security police themselves) was highly persuasive.

The magistrate could also have reached an open verdict, in effect saying that on the conflicting evidence before him he could not make up his mind one way or the other. Such a decision would have implied that there were, in his mind, serious doubts about the police version of events. He chose instead to couch his findings in a way which made it clear that he believed the police evidence. That can be seen from his acceptance that the head injury which resulted in Mr Biko's death was probably sustained in a scuffle with the police. The very existence of that struggle, however, is dependent on unconvincing and inconsistent police evidence of it.

The magistrate went on to say that there was no proof that Mr Biko's death had been caused by any act or omission amounting to a criminal offence by any person. The word "proof" in the context of the functions of an inquest magistrate means "prima facie case". It was not part of his duty to decide beyond reasonable doubt whether anyone was criminally liable. That task would be performed by the court before which any charges with an offence appeared. The magistrate's finding is therefore that there was not even a prima facie case of criminal conduct. On the evidence, such a decision appears absurd. The magistrate may (he is not obliged to under the law) subsequently release the motivated reasons for his decisions, and a further analysis

of his verdict may then be possible. Subject to that we can only conclude that his verdict was not impartial, that he suffered from such personal or political bias that he gave a verdict which was against the weight of the evidence, supported only by testimony which had been shown in cross-examination to be tainted with inconsistency and perjury. This was either a prejudiced or a dishonest finding.

The Biko inquest has shown that provided the security police do not falter in their solidarity, it is all but impossible to satisfy such a magistrate that any detainee died at their hands by unlawful means. By the nature of South Africa's detention laws, no one other than the police, prison warders, and those, like prison doctors, with special access to detainees, can really know what has happened to a person in detention. Unless they reveal the truth—and they all have considerable interest in not doing so—it cannot be proved by direct evidence, and it now seems that no circumstantial case, however strong, can effectively dent that conspiracy of silence and lies. The security police have come out of the Biko affair the stronger, their capacity to commit their reckless and inhuman acts of cruelty with impunity confirmed. Apart from the personal tragedies to those unfortunate enough to find themselves detained indefinitely without trial and held incommunicado at the mercy of people such as gave evidence at the Biko inquest, there is a further and perhaps sadder tragedy: that the vast majority of white South Africans approved—in the name of national security—of what was done to Steve Biko, or cannot see what all the fuss has been about.

THE SECRET SERVICE AND PUBLIC RECORDS

The United Kingdom is good at espionage, especially the technical kind involving communications, intelligence and codebreaking. It is one of the things, as the late Mr Donald McLachlan used to remark, that makes us all so worthy. There have always been sound arguments for concealing this particular example of the nation's prowess. Sir Maurice Hankey, as Secretary of the Cabinet, insisted Lloyd George in 1920 that foreigners were not to understand the British as codebreakers. "It is a pity to relieve this amiable weakness of theirs", he added.

Total concealment can backfire, however. Politicians and the public will undermine the value, indeed the necessity, of such activities if their only image of them comes from the out of it of libidinous James Bonds or latter-day Bertie Woosters with small arms training. The antithesis to Hankey's view was put very nicely by Sir John Masterman, one of the wartime giants of M15, in his study of *The Double Cross System*.

"Any good work done by the Secret Service is usually unknown except to those in high places and those personally concerned. On the other hand any error or partial failure receives a great deal of publicity and a spate of criticism. Failures are exaggerated, successes never mentioned. . . . Although this is inevitable, it carries with it unhappy consequences, for when reputations suffer, confidence in

the services is lost", he wrote. Ministers are currently weighing the dilemma posed by Hankey and Masterman as they move towards a decision on how much should be revealed about intelligence in peace and war and how soon. The issue has been raised by an earlier decision in 1974 to reveal at least part of the codebreaking triumphs of the Government Communications Headquarters during World War II.

Evidence of the collective genius of Bletchley Park, the wartime home of the GC and CS, on the shelves of the Public Record Office has made it impossible to sustain the fiction that espionage activities cease the moment peace is signed. Of course the Attlee government turned the attention of Bletchley and its successor organisation to the interception of Soviet signals traffic in the late 1940s. It would have been a dereliction of duty to do otherwise.

Nowadays most newspapers, though, *The Times* remains an exception, regularly break the D Notice urging that the name of the present Director of M16 not be disclosed. Some even publish the address of his south London headquarters. Yet ministers still pretend in Parliament that he and his 700 operators do not exist.

There are good reasons for protecting the current activities of M16. Few people would want them put in jeopardy through Parliamentary questions asked by fellow travelling Labour MP's

whose allegiance does not lie with the Western Alliance. But falsifying the historical record to sustain the impossible illusion that M16 exists only as the "Circus" in John Le Carré novels is another matter. A seventy-five year embargo is placed upon all public records that mention M16, even at the foot of a long circulation list. This is a practice that plays into the hands of conspiracy theorists.

Of course some papers should be retained for very long periods of time. Blood could be spilled in Ireland, for example, if the names of those who spied for Britain during the troubles were revealed even in 1977. But to close two thirds of the Colonial Office Papers on Palestine for 1947 simply because they allude to M16 is a nonsense.

Ministers have a ready-made watchdog in the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records. At present, the committee is told, as a matter of courtesy rather than of right, what will fail to appear on the public shelves. No details are given. Last month it was simply told that "49 pieces of special Colonial Office correspondence" was being retained. The Council, Lord Trend, the former Secretary of the Cabinet, told a committee of permanent secretaries last month, are tired of acting as "rubber stamps". If ministers cannot fulfil their pledges of open government in the field of public records, to what areas is the principle applicable?

A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS

There is increasing disquiet over the effects of the guillotine on the Scotland Bill. Much of the criticism comes, as one would expect, from those who disapprove of its substance. But it is entirely reasonable that those who are sympathetic to the Bill's basic purpose should be disturbed at the way it is being pushed through Parliament. There had to be a guillotine at some stage if it was to stand any chance of being passed at all. Otherwise debate, and the opportunities for filibustering, would have been endless. But it is wrong in principle, and might be very dangerous in practice, that whole sections of a Bill of this consequence should be approved without debate.

That has been the effect of the particular procedures that are being applied. The difficulty has not come from filibustering. There has simply been insufficient time for considering matters of substance; so that such questions as the possibility of giving the assembly taxing powers, the timing of election to

it, and the term of office of assembly members, have all been passed without discussion. These are not trifling items. Getting the right answers on some of them may be critical to the success of the whole scheme. Nor can it be maintained that thorough examination of the details of this Bill was not required because of the attention given to the Scotland and Wales Bill in the last session. Not only is this a new Bill that requires separate study, but the committee proceedings on that measure had not gone beyond consideration of the third clause of the original Bill before the unsuccessful attempt to impose a guillotine.

The Scotland Bill remains an imperfect piece of legislation, somewhat better than the Government's previous effort but still in great need of improvement. If the House of Commons is not to have a proper opportunity to make that improvement then it becomes all the more necessary for the House of Lords to perform that function.

This is not a call for the Peers to emasculate the Bill. What is needed is thorough, constructive examination of a complex measure dealing with issues of great subtlety and importance for the future of the United Kingdom. It is precisely the kind of task for which a revising chamber is required.

The Lords must not shrink from this role for fear of imperilling their own future. There would be no point in having a second chamber that failed to do its job in case it was abolished. If the Government object to having their legislation stringently revised by the House of Lords as now composed then the sensible course would be to take steps towards reforming its composition. That would be no bad thing. If the Lords prompt such action by insisting on fulfilling their own role adequately so much the better. What must not be allowed to happen is for one of the most important measures that Parliament has considered for many years to be rushed on to the statute book without proper scrutiny.

indeed their wish, should the British taxpayer subscribe to a development fund which is to be one of the consequences of fulfilling that wish? For let us be clear that this fund will become a bottomless purse and a drain upon our resources for years to come and all we shall receive in return will be obsequy from those we have betrayed and contempt from those we would befriend.

Yours faithfully,
I. D. McELWAIN.
Friday Farm,
Rusper,
Forthness,
West Sussex.
November 10.

Future of Rhodesia

From Mr Stuart F. Hill
Sir, May we now expect black African leaders in their various countries to follow Mr Smith's example by accepting the principle of one man one vote?
Yours faithfully,
STUART HILL,
16 The Ridgeway,
Twickenham,
Kent.
November 25.

From Mr J. D. McElwain
Sir, One of the less well-publicized items of the Anglo-American "package" for Rhodesia is the pro-

posal to establish a Zimbabwean development fund of at least £330m to revive the economy after independence. Since the Rhodesian economy is at the present time, and despite years of sanctions, among the strongest in Africa, it is clear that a very marked decline in the prosperity of that country is expected upon reaching the longed-for goal of black majority rule. Is it really the wish of the black majority that only poverty, but disorder and fear such as they have never experienced in their lifetimes for the ephemeral satisfaction of (possibly) being allowed to mark and put a slip of paper in a ballot box—once?

And if it is assumed that this is

Elections to the European Parliament

From Lord Walton
Sir, There can be no doubt that direct elections to the European Parliament will take place. The main decision still to be taken is whether these elections should be on the conventional British "first past the post" system, or whether they should be some form of PR and a regional list. Some are in favour of a regional list on the grounds that with such a system we should be able to meet the proposed timetable, and direct elections would not be held up solely because of British delays.

Laudable though such intentions are, they are not by themselves strong enough reasons for adopting a system of election if it has other disadvantages. Of those who favour the first past the post method, some do so solely on the grounds that it will delay direct elections. This is an even weaker argument for choosing a particular system.

There are many who, while drawn towards a regional list, still oppose it because they feel it would be the thin end of the wedge for a similar system in our own parliamentary elections. They feel that, with all its faults, our present system is the best for our own Parliament. There are two factors that such people do not take into account. The first is, as you rightly pointed out in an editorial a few days ago, that the European Parliament is called a Parliament only by courtesy. It is, in fact, as its official name clearly shows, little more than a consultative assembly. There is therefore no need, as there is at Westminster, for a clear-cut majority of one party to win on the grounds that such a majority would be a disaster. Rather it is necessary for the European Parliament to represent as wide a spectrum as possible of political opinion in all the member countries.

Parliament are truly the representatives of the people who elect them. It is not easy for them to keep contact with their 50,000 or so constituents, but it is still possible. This is one of the most important functions of a Member of Parliament at Westminster, and must be preserved. The member of the European Parliament, however, has to represent something more like a quarter of a million people. This he cannot do in any personal way. All he can hope to do is to be available to those representing the major interests of his wide constituency.

Thirdly, it is essential that members elected to the European

Parliament should cooperate closely with the government at home, as well as with the opposition parties. In order to do this effectively, and above all in order that the government of the day should regard the European Parliament as a valuable adjunct to democratic government, it is important that the membership of the national groups in the European Parliament should bear some relationship to the membership of the national Parliament. Had there been a first past the post election to the European Parliament last May, the strong probability is that there would have been no Liberals, very few Labour members, and a great preponderance of Conservatives. This could not have led to a useful working relationship between the Labour Government and the British members to the European Parliament.

For these reasons, it is surely essential that Parliament should now decide that the interests of this country and of democracy will best be served by elections to the European Parliament being on the basis of regional lists.

Yours truly,
WALTON,
A14 Albany,
Piccadilly, W1.
November 29.

From Mr B. Ellis
Sir, David Wood in his article of November 28 raises some interesting points with regard to the delay of the EEC poll. One important outstanding point however does not receive a mention.

This is the agreement by senior government members of all countries involved that direct elections will be held by these nations simultaneously and eventually with the same method of voting.

As eight nations will use proportional representation, we are bound to use this method at the second set of elections. Why partisan opposition is required when we are bound to adopt a new method of election eventually is a mystery. The barriers are erected by so-called Europeans. The folly of this action is of course the damage to the European cause. A cause which includes a system of election which is just.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ELLIS,
61 Brent Park Road,
Hendon, NW4.
November 28.

The Lord's Prayer

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Foster-Carter's moving plea in his letter (November 30) for the "irreplaceable link between us and that great cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us in our use of the Lord's Prayer lies at the heart of this controversy. The Bishops and the General Synod seem intent on breaking that link, and thus replacing it by a virtual replacement in all our churches of the Book of Common Prayer by Series II and Series III. How many of us when in trouble, distress or danger do not repeat, almost subconsciously, the moving words of the Lord's Prayer? How many of us, the well known prayers. In future will even this comfort be denied us by our masters?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons.
November 30.

From Mr Bert Lodge
Sir, The risk between traditionalists and the language of the Authorized Version and others who welcome putting the Lord's Prayer—indeed some have suggested the Lord's Prayer—into modern speech is simply one more example of a contemporary and growing phenomenon—that of a long-established consensus breaking down.

Among other areas where it has happened, one has been in the intentional—brewing. In many pubs keg or pressurized beer has supplanted traditional ale. Fortunately, guides have been produced for the discerning drinker on which pub sells what. The same must happen for "burches" and you sir, could

Safeguarding the otter

From Lord Cranbrook

Sir, Few of your correspondents seem to realize that the Conservation of Wild Creatures etc Act was passed in order to protect any wild creature which "has become so rare that its survival in the wild is endangered, either generally or in any particular area". That wild creature may be eg a butterfly, or a mammal like the otter or a deer.

The criterion which must govern the implementation of a conservation Act must be whether or not a wild creature is endangered, not whether or not it is being chased with a butterfly net, with hounds or shot with a rifle. Ethical objections to those actions may justify special

legislation to prevent them, but that is not conservation. The Badgers Act is a good example.

I am a conservationist and next Tuesday (December 6) I hope to move a resolution urging the Government to make an Order giving the otter the protection of the 1975 Act in those areas where the Nature Conservation Council advise that the otter is so rare that its status as a British wild creature is endangered.

That seems sensible to me: I hope the vote readers will agree.

I am, Sir, yours etc.,
CRANBROOK,
Red House Farm,
Great Glemham,
Saxmundham,
Suffolk.
November 30.

Nash's neglected terrace

From Mr John Hopkins

Sir, It was distressing to read in *The Times* of November 26 that Cambridge Terrace, in Regent's Park, is still unrenovated and neglected. It is also surprising to read that, according to Camden Council "any changes in plans that have occurred have been due to changes in the economic climate".

At one stage, over ten years ago, in conjunction with the Crown Commissioners, presented a viable and attractive scheme to restore Cambridge Terrace for use mainly as a centre for headquarters accommodation of a number of well known international charities. Outline planning consent was obtained on condition that one third of the total space was to be used for residential purposes. To meet this condition strenuous efforts were made to provide student accommodation in this residential sector, a scheme which was approved by Camden Council. These efforts failed through lack of finance for student accommodation but London International Centre, of which I

was at the time Chairman, was able to interest the contractors in the sponsorship of luxury flats for the residential sector and so making the whole scheme a practical proposition.

At this juncture, Camden Council withdrew their consent, not because they objected to the residential sector being used for luxury flats, but, I was given to understand, because they thought that if one third of the space could be used for this purpose there was no reason why the whole building could not be so utilized.

The result was that London International Centre had to abandon a scheme to which several years of planning and been given by the Crown Commissioners, and the charities London still has no centre from which they, the charities, can operate with maximum efficiency through pooled resources, and Cambridge Terrace is still the shabbiest and most neglected of the Nash terraces.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOPKINS,
The Naval and Military Club,
Piccadilly, W1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christmas as a Christian festival

From the Reverend Dr Rowan Williams

Sir, Curiously enough, I (and I suspect, a great many other Christians) do not welcome the demythologizing of credal belief as an aid to the rescuing of Christmas. Clifford Longley's Christmas values and the incarnation 'myth', *The Times* (November 28) is, no doubt, perfectly correct in pointing out that the welter of *ersatz* religious sentiment surrounding the festival does precious little to increase the average man's understanding of the Sermon on the Mount (let us say). But that is hardly the point.

Christians have believed for most of two millennia in a God who wished to identify himself with the whole of human experience, even the weakness and total dependence of childhood, who has, so to speak, sealed his seal on everything that is human, not simply the competent, the successful, or the useful. It is a point whose importance for the Christian understanding of man and woman in society, let alone men and women before God, cannot be over-emphasized: it is one of the foundations for the Christian option in favour of those without rights, or power. And it speaks of a divine love which will not coerce, but is ready to be helpless and dependent, begging only to be freely loved in return.

A demythologized Christmas signifies the abandonment of any respectably Christian view of both God and man. The traditional picture certainly risks evoking self-indulgent emotions; but the appeal to pity always runs such a risk. Sentimentality is the tribute which cynicism pays to compassion. The paradox of the infant God, the speechless Word, was one which more imaginative and compassionate generations delighted to dwell upon. If the Christian Church is unable to cope with the seriousness of this, the future not only of the household of faith but of humanity itself is even bleaker than it normally appears.

Yours sincerely,
ROWAN WILLIAMS,
Westcott House,
Jesus Lane,
Cambridge.
November 29.

From Mr Robert F. Pitt
Sir, Clifford Longley, writing on "Christmas values and the incarnation 'myth'" (*The Times*, November 28), says "whatever the kernel of historical truth about the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, the surrounding circumstances described in the

early chapters of the Gospels, particularly Luke's, are regarded by non-fundamentalist scholars as the product of the author's imagination".

This statement is inaccurate. Most scholars do not believe the early chapters of Luke's Gospel to be drawn from his own imagination. Luke is known, as a result of Synoptic research, to be an editor who wrote from source material. He was a careful historian. The purpose of his gospel is clearly stated in its first verse:

"... to set forth, in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eye witnesses" (*Luke* 1, 1-2).

Writing in the last decades of the first century, Luke's task was to bring together the various strands of tradition, both oral and written, which had come down to him. To add to this tradition a preface drawn from his own imagination would be to deny his own literary purpose.

It is correct to say that many scholars consider the Christmas "events" to have been a literary device for signifying the specialness of Jesus in the minds of his near contemporaries. It is incorrect to say that these same scholars attribute the "devising" to Luke. Obviously he was an historian who arranged his material with theological motivations, as do the authors of the *Myth of God Incarnate*, but he clearly believed what he wrote to be true.

ROBERT F. PITT,
Goddington House,
Court Road,
Wimington,
Kent.
November 29.

And a partridge

From Mr Nicholas D. King
Sir, The Post Office is certainly to be congratulated on the standard of the Christmas stamps which have been issued this year: but who is responsible for these stamps portraying twelve lords a-leaping, eleven ladies dancing, ten pipers piping and nine drummers drumming, when all recognized standard versions of the carol have ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming?
Yours faithfully,
N. D. KING,
25 Kent Road,
Folkestone,
Kent.
November 29.

Maintenance of canals

From Mr P. R. Lisle

Sir, I was concerned to see in your issue of November 23 a report by your Political Correspondent that in evidence to the Select Committee on Agriculture the industries the responsible Minister indicated that he was astonished that the British Waterways Board had been unable to show which parts of the canal system needed urgent repair.

The fact is that the Board's engineers carried out in 1970 a detailed survey of the Board's waterways to quantify the extent and cost of the arrears of maintenance which our earlier studies have revealed are enormous. The Board's £21.8m and the survey documentation is still available today.

The Board rely on grants from central Government to fulfil their statutory duties and obligations and have received over many years insufficient money for this purpose. Indeed the report of the independent consulting engineers commissioned by the Department of the Environment published on November 9, 1977, fully confirms the existence of the arrears we identified and endorses the Board's arguments for additional funds to overtake them.

The major problem of arrears and the restriction of funds has meant that it has been impossible to

equally the need with the money available. What is done each year is to allocate money to the most urgent requirements for the security and safety of the system as a first priority and thereafter to allocate the balance to the many pressing needs for operating dredging and maintenance work throughout the system.

Many of the structures for which the Board are responsible are up to 200 years old and although regularly inspected, this is not sufficient to determine the true physical condition of such structures. Suitable staff, resources and time are needed and, because of the limitation of money, sufficient staff and resources have not been available.

These problems have been the subject of detailed discussions with Government over many years. Now that £5m of additional funds have been made available for 1978-79 to deal with the most urgent problems of security and safety, the Board will be able to extend that work and prepare forward programmes of priorities beyond the obvious urgent necessities.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. LISLE,
Chief Engineer,
British Waterways Board,
Melbury House,
Melbury Terrace, NW1.
November 28.

The demise of poetry

From Mr Graeme Barrasford Young

Sir, The recent statement by the editors of *New Poetry* 3 that the "persistent vein of romantic traditionalism" has almost entirely disappeared from poetry must presumably be taken to mean that no-one any longer writes poetry.

Poetry, as defined by the OED as "elevated expression of elevated thought . . .", has, in recent years, been almost completely suppressed by the editors of literary magazines, who seem to regard any poetry which contains metaphor and allusion, or displays any evidence of education and breadth of knowledge, as "heavy" and "literary",

and therefore beyond consideration.

Do we assume that an educational and social system which regards all attempts at presenting excellence or making people think as elitist is responsible for this attitude, or is there some curious reason of their own that makes editors prefer banality of thought and expression to a standard of poetry that produced the great names now entirely lacking from English poetry?

Yours sincerely,
G. YOUNG,
Co-Editor, *Labrys*,
91 Wimbome Avenue,
Hayes,
Middlesex.
November 30.

Fact or science fiction?

From Mr Martin Raw

Sir, As psychologists with a keen interest in people's attitudes towards extraterrestrial life, as well as interest in the possibility of such life itself, we feel bound to make an important point that has so far been neglected in coverage of the intergalactic message received in Southern England last Saturday. A voice from outer space would have come from the nearest inhabitable galaxy (or further)—at least tens of light years away and would, we conclude, hardly be in touch with the latest political and social developments in Hampshire. This suggests, to us at least, the possibility that the message was a hoax. Alternatively, if it wasn't a hoax, John Arlott has got a lot of fast talking to do.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN RAW,
Institute of Psychiatry,
Addiction Research Unit,
101 Denmark Hill, SE5.

Illegal immigrant amnesty

From Lady Eldon

Sir, How does the Home Office know the date an illegal immigrant enters the country?
Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE ELDON,
2 Coach House Lane,
Somerset Road, SW19.

Welsh nicknames

From Mr Dillwyn Miles

Sir, Trevor Fishlock (November 26) omitted to mention Dai Central 'Eating so named, not because of any house warming connexion but simply because he had only one tooth left.

Yours faithfully,
D. MILES,
Castle Hill,
Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire.

From Mrs Margaret O'Shea

Sir, . . . not to mention the very tall thin man with the waxed moustache, affectionately known, throughout his region as Barbed Wire Jones.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET O'SHEA,
4 Wiltonfield,
Harlow,
Essex.

From Dr Eirian Williams

Sir, That lovely man—David Evans, Esq, Grove Bakery, St Davids—to his countless friends was Dai Bread and Dai the Bun until the late 1960s. He was presented to our Prince and now of course is the one and only Dai Upper Crust. Yours faithfully,
EIRIAN WILLIAMS,
Thornton House,
Thornton,
Milford Haven,
Pembrokeshire.

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

Brussels warning of power to curb national aid for shipbuilding

From Michael Horsey

Brussels, Dec. 2 — A warning was given to EEC members here today that unless they agreed to reduce their shipbuilding production capacity by 45 per cent by the early 1980s, the account of declining world demand, the European Commission would use the powers it has under the Treaty of Rome to curb national subsidies of the industry.

The commission's proposals for modernizing and restructuring the shipbuilding will be among the subjects discussed at a summit meeting here on Monday and Tuesday. The hope in Brussels is that the summit will be heads of government at their indicative general political approval for the commission's approach.

Speaking at a press conference, Viscount Davignon, responsible for industrial policy, said that most national aid hitherto has been aimed at helping smaller shipyards in business. In future such assistance would be acceptable only to the extent that it clearly promoted rationalization.

If any members had doubts about the commission's powers in this matter, they should "go and reread the Treaty of Rome", Viscount Davignon said. He also gave a strong hint that the commission would not approve the kind of subsidized credit deal that made possible the recent British sale of ships worth £155m to Poland.

The commission had let the Polish deal go through because there was no clear evidence that it would deprive other EEC shipyards of business. But the deal would directly threaten the competitive position of EEC

merchant fleets by enabling a rival to equip itself at excessively cheap rates.

If the EEC could reduce its present production capacity of about 4.4 million tonnes by 1980 there was a chance that Community shipyards could be competitive, Viscount Davignon said. This implied that the number of people employed in the industry — currently about 155,000 — would have to be reduced by 10,000 to 15,000 annually for the next five years or so.

Although the cost of creating new jobs for those made redundant would be high, it would be no higher than the cost of protecting existing shipbuilding jobs which in the end would prove unviable anyway, the commissioner maintained.

He said he hoped that some £200m would be available in next year's EEC budget to subsidize rebates of the interest charged on EEC loans worth £140m to help finance rationalization.

Viscount Davignon said the commission was also proposing that foreign vessels using EEC ports should be required to observe the same strict standards about the carrying of merchant fleets, particularly in respect of safety requirements and working conditions of crews.

The EEC's share of world trade has risen to 30 per cent, he said, and 90 per cent of the commerce with the rest of the world depended on sea transport. Yet the Nine's share of the world merchant shipping fleet had declined to no more than 20 per cent in 1960. This was partly because of unfair competition, he said.

Tokyo plan for trade concessions ready soon

From Peter Hazellhurst

Tokyo, Dec. 2

A plan on trade concessions, designed to liberalize imports and reduce Japan's surplus with the United States and Europe, will be presented to Washington this month, Mr. Nobuhiko Ashino, Minister of State for External Economic Affairs, said here today.

Drawn up hurriedly this week to ward off the growing threat of protectionism in the United States, the bilateral concessions will in effect be granted on a unilateral basis — in Japan's trading partners.

Mr. Ashino declared: "This deal will apply to all of Japan's trading partners. We will specifically take into consideration items in which European nations have expressed interest."

Mr. Ashino said that the proposed concessions might contain tariff reductions of about 20 per cent and raise quotas on an unspecified number of import items.

There could also be financial measures to encourage and assist Japanese exporters.

Mr. Ashino, former ambassador to the United States, was installed in the cabinet on Monday as the Prime Minister's new roving trouble-shooter on international trade.

The United States is expected to suffer a \$7,000m (about £3,950m) deficit in trade with Japan this year, and in recent months Washington has warned Tokyo of the dangers of protectionist moves in the United States Congress.

Mr. Ashino said Japan would also use other measures to reduce the nation's embarrassing surplus, because speculative trading, the appreciating value of the yen had threatened the future of Japanese exporters.

The minister said that apart from proposed concessions to Washington, the Japanese Government would set \$2,000m aside to purchase emergency imports — mainly oil, raw materials, and possibly aircraft — from the United States.

He said details of the proposed concessions will be completed on Tuesday. "I will definitely carry them to Washington to enter into negotiations with the United States before the end of the year," he promised.

Pointing out that restrictions on the imports of farm products might be relaxed, Mr. Ashino said: "As in the case of most countries, it is also a hot political issue in Japan."

He claimed that Japan's volume of exports is expected to decline next spring when the current sharp 22 per cent appreciation in the value of the yen begins to undermine Japan's international competitive power.

At the same time, Mr. Ashino declared that the world should not expect any immediate or dramatic reduction in Japan's projected trade surplus of \$17,000m this year.

"Let me say now that a 100 per cent solution will not be possible. That should not be the aim."

Referring to demands of western industrialized nations that Japan should raise its ratio of manufactured imports from 20 per cent to 40 per cent of total imports, Mr. Ashino said foreign exporters will also have to make extra efforts to penetrate the Japanese market.

Money supply fears eased by rise of only \$183m in official reserves

By Caroline Atkinson

Britain's official reserves showed only a slight increase last month in contrast to the huge rises in previous months when the Bank of England was taking dollars into the reserves as it sold sterling to hold down the value of the pound.

During November Britain's holdings of gold and foreign currency reserves rose by \$183m (£101m) to \$20,394m (£11,227m). The rise, which takes the reserves to a new record, is the smallest for six months.

There were no identified official transactions and no drawing or repayment of public sector overseas debt.

The small increase could represent some net intervention in the foreign exchange market, where the Bank of England has been detected on a small scale during the month.

It could also be because of maturing of some of the forward dollar purchases made by the Bank in earlier months.

The gilt market reacted favourably to the figures. There was relief that such a small rise would not put further pressure on the money supply.

Since the Bank changed its intervention tactics on October 31, the pound has risen by 2.7 per cent against the dollar and by 1.3 per cent in effective terms.

After an initial rise, fears over the pay round soon sent sterling down again. The Bank of England deliberately kept out of the market the first time last month that the pound lost ground to the dollar. It was then, sharp drop in the rate would dampen further speculation.

This seems to have been successful, and trading has kept within fairly narrow limits

since, with most of the money that has switched out of dollars heading for yen, Swiss francs and now Deutschmarks.

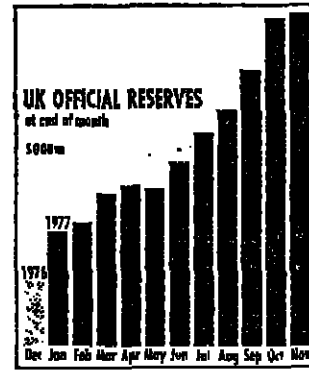
It is not yet clear what the Government's policy towards the pound will be next year. A current account surplus on the balance of payments will mean that there will typically be an excess demand for pounds. Foreigners will be spending more on British goods than they earn in Britain.

If private capital flows do not counteract the current surplus, the Government will have to choose between allowing a steady exchange rate appreciation and intervening in the markets to supply the extra pounds needed by foreigners.

The dollar was again very weak yesterday. It touched record lows of DM2.2015 and 1.3235 Swiss francs.

Support from the West German Federal Bank helped the dollar in the afternoon.

Swelling closed 30 points up at \$182.05, unchanged in effective terms at 63.3.



UK RESERVES
The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury.

End of period	\$m	£m	Change in month
1977			
Jan	7,195	4,196	+3,087
Feb	7,787	4,546	+581
March	8,618	5,582	+1,831
April	10,130	5,892	+512
May	9,901	5,760	-229
June	11,572	6,727	+1,671
July	13,422	7,725	+1,850
Aug	14,852	8,521	+1,430
Sept	17,171	9,856	+2,319
Oct	20,211	10,987	+3,040
Nov	20,394	11,227	+183

Mr Healey expected to keep open 1978 targets after IMF visit

By Our Economics Staff

The visiting team from the International Monetary Fund ended its two weeks of talks with the Government yesterday.

A letter from Mr. Healey, the Chancellor, to the Fund in Washington is expected within a few weeks. It will set out the terms of the understanding reached in the talks, which concentrated on the performance of the British economy during the year.

Mr. Healey said the Treasury had been most unwilling to see converted into firm ceilings the "central bank" target for both public borrowing and domestic credit in the official Letter of Intent signed last year.

The estimates contained in the

letter are that public borrowing should be at most £8,600m and that DCE should not rise above £6,000m. However, the Treasury has insisted that on its present

rethinking the £6,000m figure for DCE is too low and will have to be revised upwards, perhaps to around £7,000m to £7,500m.

Although it is not yet clear how much detail will be spelt out in the letter to be sent to the IMF in the next few weeks, the Chancellor has been determined to leave open the final fixing of targets for next year until as late as possible, which would involve waiting until just before his Budget in the spring.

Separately from the negotiations with the Fund team, but with a close relationship, is the question of what money supply targets to set for next year.

There has been intense debate on this within the Bank of England and the Treasury in the past few weeks.

Since changes in the money supply are determined by DCE and the surplus on the balance of payments, the final agreement on DCE will set the bounds for the growth of money supply even though the Fund is not directly concerned with money targets.

The Treasury feels that it should set money supply targets only when it has a clearer picture of what will happen to wages, which introduces one argument for delay.

Another is concerned with uncertainty about how large a surplus the United Kingdom will have on the balance of payments next year, with the Bank being more optimistic than the Treasury.

Spending by state £431m under plan

Government spending in the first half of this financial year was £431.1m below the level expected in the sectors covered by the cash limits system, which governs the great majority of public spending.

Figures released by the Treasury yesterday show that instead of £13,276.4m, the Government spent only £12,845.1m, or 96 per cent of the amount expected.

The figures suggest that the Government will end up spending less than it planned in 1977-78, just as it did in 1976-77.

But the fact that some spending departments may adopt a more expenditure-oriented approach during the second half of the year now that they know that they are in little danger of breaching the limits could mean that the final gap between planning and results is less than might be expected on the basis of the present figures.

All departments except one have either underspent or only just reached the total allocated to them for "pay and general administrative expenses" during the first half of the year.

The exception is, embarrassingly, the Treasury, part of whose job it is to police the spending of the other departments.

Treasury argument is that the comparison between actual and planned spending is done on the basis of "profiles" of likely spending, and that in the case of themselves the profile has turned out to underweight the expenditure in the first half of the year.

There is no doubt, however, that if any other department had found itself in the same position some searching questions would have been asked.

The Secret Service, which also comes out of a Treasury vote, also overspent slightly on its overall activities.

The fact that the Government has underspent in the first half of the financial year has been one of the elements depressing activity in the economy. Supplementary estimates: The Government has put in supplementary estimates of £1,998m for public spending, of which £1,448m are caused by increased pay and prices. The supplementary estimates order is of no practical significance and reflects no change in policy.

Onshore oil hunt
British Gas, Shell UK and Clyde Petroleum have been awarded a total of 12 onshore licences to prospect for oil and gas in areas of the country totalling almost 4,000 sq kilometres.

The licences, announced by the Department of Energy yesterday, authorize the searching for oil and gas by prospecting and geological survey including drilling to not more than 350 metres.

But the companies will not be allowed to drill for or produce oil and gas. They will also have to gain permission from land owners and, where necessary, planning permission.

Unilever nearer bid for American group

By Our Financial Staff

Unilever's long-heralded move to strengthen its presence in the United States now appears to have crystallized on National Starch and Chemical Corporation, the New Jersey-based manufacturer of chemicals, resins, and industrial chemicals.

After the suspension of National Starch shares at \$444, valuing the company at around £165m. Unilever confirmed that it was in talks that could lead to an offer for the National Starch.

Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever, has never made any secret of the fact that he regards the group's low exposure to the fast growing United States market as a gap to be filled.

Since 1970 the proportion of operating profits from America has steadily dropped from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

Two months ago Unilever was linked with a possible takeover of Gerber Products, the baby foods concern, and though it has never confirmed its intentions towards Gerber the talks led to National Starch would seem to preclude this takeover.

Unilever's existing interests in the United States are the Lipton tea and packet food subsidiary and the Lever deodorants group. Last year sales were some £870m.

While Lipton has a good record, Lever has been less successful in the highly competitive American deodorants market and is presently undergoing a large capital spending programme to increase capacity and efficiency.

Because of a possible conflict with United States anti-trust authorities, it also looks as though Unilever has decided to concentrate its efforts away from foods and deodorants since despite stable chemical business there is very little overlap at present with many of National Starch's activities.

Turnover last year at National Starch, the 39th largest chemical group in the United States, was \$339m and net profits \$24.5m.

Speculation that Unilever would use the takeover as an opportunity to raise its dividend helped push the shares 10p higher to 538p.

Unilever has this year already had an application to raise its dividend turned down by the Treasury and is known to be keen to increase it, as dividends are being stored up under the equalization agreement with the Dutch side.

A price tag of £200m plus is not expected to cause too much trouble as Unilever is relatively undergeared.

Mr Dell says our trade with Middle East is in surplus

Britain's trade with the Middle East is in surplus, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said in London yesterday.

By any standards this is a considerable achievement. The relative importance of the Middle East for our export trade has doubled in less than four years," he told a conference on transporting materials and components to the Middle East organized by the Association of Building Component Manufacturers.

Mr Dell singled out the construction industry for special mention. It had, he said, played a major role in Britain's export effort in the Middle East last year when new orders valued at £87m.

Boost for state oil
The British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) by early next decade could have access to about 25 million tonnes of United Kingdom Continental Shelf crude oil each year from its equity share holdings in fields and through the exercise of participation options. Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, stated in a Commons answer yesterday.

Call to hauliers
Britain's road hauliers were urged last night to cooperate fully with the Price Commission investigation of the industry so that "the real truth" could be fairly established.

Mr John Silbermann, national vice-chairman of the Road Haulage Association, said it was often wrongly felt that the road

In brief

hauliers were holding customers to ransom.

West German jobless
Unemployment in West Germany topped a million again last month, largely reflecting the onset of winter.

Herr Josef Stimpf, the president of the Federal Labour Office, told a press conference in Nuremberg that the total number of unemployed increased by 49,900 to 1,004,300 at the end of November. The percentage of jobless in the working population rose to 4.4 per cent.

Banks rescue plan
Rome, Dec. 2 — Banks have virtually agreed to the new rescue plan for Generale Immobiliare SPA, subject to finalization of precise details and approval at board level, sources at the company said. It includes plans to cede property assets for a total value of around 210,000 lire (about £131.6m) which would pay off banking debts of around 140,000 lire.

GEC-Weir venture
A 12-year joint venture between two British companies, General Electric and the Weir Group, on development, manufacture and sales of sodium circulators for use in nuclear fast reactors, has been authorized by the European Commission.

Seagram is hoping for Glenlivet

By Richard Allen

Shares of Glenlivet Distillers jumped 20p to 490p last night on news that takeover talks are to continue with the Canadian Seagram organization.

Earlier this month Seagram, which claims to be the world's largest producer and marketer of distilled spirits and wines, launched a 440p share bid for Glenlivet after acquiring a 27 per cent stake in the company from Courage, the brewery business of Imperial Group.

The Seagram bid values Glenlivet at £34m compared with last night's stock market capitalization of over £38m.

Yesterday's developments involved an announcement from Glenlivet board that they did not welcome the Seagram approach, considering it in the best interests of shareholders.

However, they were prepared to continue talks if Seagram gave satisfactory written safeguards concerning the continued employment of all staff and employees and the future status of the company.

Mr. Philip Beckman, Seagram's president, replied from Montreal that the "appropriate assurances" would be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Suntory, Japan's leading distiller, which has an 11 per cent stake in Glenlivet has so far given no indication whether it may emerge as a counter-bidder.

Seagram has close business links with Glenlivet, and has purchased the group's famous 12-year-old old whisky.

Glenlivet's profits last year rose from £2.18m to £3.36m, and in the first half of this year climbed from £1.2m to £1.54m.

Washington expects heavy decline in unemployment

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Dec. 2

Unemployment in the United States fell back to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent last month. The jobless rate has moved up and down between 6.9 per cent and 7.1 per cent over the past eight months.

The department of labour said that total employment rose sharply in November by 950,000 and government and private economists are becoming increasingly confident that there will be significant declines in unemployment in the months ahead.

This confidence in part reflects growing expectations of more stimulative economic policies. The Carter Administration is now firmly committed to a tax cut next year, and on Wall Street today there was considerable speculation of somewhat easier money policies ahead.

Citibank announced today that it is holding its prime commercial lending rate at 7 1/2 per cent.

A taste of chocolate for Price Commission

Cadbury Schweppes Foods became the first of the big food processing companies apart from Tate and Lyle to come under the microscope of the Price Commission's new investigatory powers yesterday.

The investigation was prompted by the company's notification of a price rise which, if taken across a range of products including chocolate biscuits, drinking chocolate, cocoa and Bournville as well as table jellies (marketed under the Chivers brand name) and powdered desserts, averages over 7 per cent. The Commission is mainly concerned about the increases in the cocoa-based products in relation to increases in the world market price of cocoa.

Mr. Harry Lavery, managing director of the division in charge of the products, said last night that the increases were based on a rise in raw material costs.

Representing over 70 per cent of the retail price of drinking chocolate and cocoa, these have quadrupled over approximately two years. The increases are fully justified, and is applying immediately for an interim price increase under the safeguard clauses of the price control legislation.

Cadbury dominates the market for drinking chocolate and cocoa. It also has a large share, estimated at over 60 per cent of the chocolate bar market, although confectionery products are not specifically included in the investigation. In biscuits, while overall it has a small proportion of sales, in the chocolate coated sector its finger and animal shaped biscuits bring it into competition with United Biscuits, the market leader.

The price of some chocolate products has already been increased by over 30 per cent this year. The latest increase for some of the Cadbury products included in the latest notification was implemented in September.

If its investigation the commission concluded that an increase is not justified, while it cannot roll back any interim rises, it can recommend that prices are frozen at that level for up to 12 months.

Unlike the old price control structure, the new commission has considerable discretion in not automatically permitting price increases related simply to manufacturing costs. Its investigations are based on the principle of allocating resources, have so far been directed at companies operating within areas where a few firms have a high concentration of sales.

An assessment of the likely impact of the Price Commission on food manufacturers produced by stockbrokers Capelure Myers this week shows that five firms hold over 85 per cent of sales of cocoa products.

Patricia Tisdall

Two of Swan Hunter vessels for Teesside

By Peter Hill

British Shipbuilders last night resolved the uncertainty over two of the seven ships which form part of the £52m Polish contract which workers at Swan Hunter, Tyne-side, wanted blocked by other yards in Britain. They will be built on Teesside by the Smith's Dock company.

Workers at Smith's Dock, which has two yards on the river, had provided the guaranteed right of industrial peace and co-operation sought by British Shipbuilders.

This represents a change of heart by workers at the company. Earlier this week 250 out-fitting workers employed at the Haverton Hill yard took part in a one-day stoppage in support of outfit workers at Swan Hunter.

Another of the vessels has already been reassigned to the Upper Clyde yard of Govan Shipbuilders, which is already building 10 multi-purpose vessels as part of the £155m Polish order.

A meeting of the company's 130 shop stewards will take place on Monday next week.

Mr. James Airlie, the works manager, said that a statement would be issued after that meeting "which will remove any doubt in anyone's mind where we stand relative to the Polish order, and the future of the industry".

Key stewards have already made a decision and when asked if the decision was in any way dangerous to the future of shipbuilding he said: "The reverse is the case." His comment indicates a change of attitude at Govan.

Outfit workers at Swan Hunter have appealed for any ships transferred because of industrial trouble at the yard to be blocked. As a result of the overtime ban some 700-800 steelworkers are likely to receive redundancy notices shortly. The Swan Hunter outfiters are seeking rises of £7 a week to give them parity with steelworkers in the yard.

Four of the bulk carriers have still to be re-assigned and no announcement is expected for about a week although officials remain hopeful that the Swan Hunter outfit workers will reconsider their decision.

Steel chief seeks action in EEC

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday advocated action by the European Commission for the establishment of a reference price system for steel imports into the Community.

He said: "We have to recognize that we have a major steel crisis and that immediate action on prices is required on a European basis."

Sir Charles, who was addressing the annual luncheon of the International Steel Trade Association in London (most of whose members have been an important factor behind the

rise in British steel imports), said that it was simply not acceptable that the price of steel products should be driven down to generate more sales which did not add to the amount of business done and which caused "fearful financial loss and general social damage."

The commission, which is expected to announce new measures for dealing with the European steel industry crisis later this month, has already indicated that it is considering a minimum price for steel imports if the United States adopts a reference price scheme.

It is also proposing to raise minimum prices for EEC produced steel by about 15 per

cent. Steel traders indicated yesterday that some strip mill steel was being sold below the BSC's basic price.

Sir Charles said: "It is quite clear now that there is in Europe an international will to create an international system of reference prices which will preserve the customary flow of trade; exports to Europe and home producers within Europe preserving the customary market share."

The Government yesterday announced that it had succeeded in curbing imports of Spanish steel reinforcing bars, light sections and flats.

How the markets moved

The Times Index: 202.35 +1.71
The FT Index: 486.7 +6.9

Rises

Art-Latham	8p to 150p
Beecham	10p to 635p
Bell	8p to 69p
Bell	8p to 217p
Bartonwood	10p to 140p
Flint	5p to 380p
GEC	5p to 244p
Harbour	5p to 184p
Mang	4p to 54p
Woods	4p to 58p

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

The rules governing the tax treatment of children's investment income need updating. Although in most cases this income is not at present aggregated with that of parents, there is an exception where the capital from which the income derives has been given to the children by their parents. In this case the first £5 of such income is ignored for tax purposes, but the rest is taxed as if it was the parents' own income.

How many parents, in these inflationary times, have been caught by a higher tax bill because their children, thrifty souls, have saved their annual birthday or Christmas gifts of money, or the weekly allowance from their parents, instead of spending it on lollipops, skate boards and the like?

It is one thing to give a teenage son or daughter £1 or £2 a week pocket money, but what if you are faced with an additional helping of tax on their investment income at the end of the year?

Unchanged

With the building society investment rate at 6 per cent, it takes less than £100 of savings to increase a parent's tax liability because of his offspring's little pot of gold.

The real problem is the low exemption level of £5 a year. This has been unchanged for a quarter of a century and must be one of the most outdated of all tax concessions in terms of erosion by inflation.

It is about time that the Government, which elsewhere accepts indexation of allowances, admitted that the £5 exemption is both unrealistic and unfair. The £5 limit, fixed by statute in 1952, is the equivalent today of at least £22.

Taxation

More ways to transfer homes without CTT...

A house is the principal asset of many people and not surprisingly many readers are asking how they can transfer one to their children or grandchildren free of capital transfer tax by making use of the annual exemption.

Various methods are being tried out in practice but they are not for the "do-it-yourself" enthusiast and professional advice should be sought. It should be borne in mind that as CTT is a fairly new tax the schemes have not yet had a chance to stand the test of time and are open to challenge by a belligerent tax inspector.

Last week I discussed a method that involved the immediate sale of the house to the children, backed up by a loan from the parents with repayment of that loan through use of the annual exemption. That scheme, though, is not very satisfactory if the house is the parent's home and main asset (incidentally, although I shall be referring to transfers from parents to their children, the principles apply equally to gifts from grandparents to grandchildren).

In such circumstances an immediate transfer of the title while the parents are alive could be disadvantageous. We saw from the table of rates last week that, as only the first £25,000 of a person's estate is taxable at a nil rate, a modest sized house may attract CTT if left to the children on death.

So the question arises, can the lifetime exemptions be used to reduce the expected liability on death, where the house is retained and there is no spare cash to give away?

Of the various schemes being adopted one of the simplest is on the basis of a mortgage from the children. The procedure is that the parents each take advantage of the £2,000 annual exemption (or a little more if the £100 per person exemption is taken into account) by giving a cheque for these amounts to the children or under age, to their trustees every year.

They in turn grant the parent (or parents if the property is jointly owned) an interest-free mortgage secured on the house of the same amount each year and hand over a cheque. No cash need actually pass hands and the transactions take place annually.

There are variations on this theme and doubtless solicitors and accountants will have a particular favourite, but of course, to suit the particular circumstances of their clients. However, before embarking upon a scheme there are two important points of which the property owner should be mindful.

First, there will be legal costs, so get some idea of what these will be, and also of the CTT estimated to be saved if the scheme works. The point is that as the first £25,000 of one's estate is taxed at a nil rate it might be found—in the smaller estates anyway—that there is little to be gained by taking advantage of a costly idea.

Secondly, check whether capital gains tax is payable and the likely liability. This is an important aspect in the case of a house which is not the owners' only or main residence.

Vera Di Palma

...and other costs?

The Federation of Master Builders understandably throws its weight behind the expansion of owner occupation in its latest submission to the Secretary of State for the Environment on the Government Green Paper on Housing.

But, quite apart from the strategic problems of improving both the quantity and the standard of the national housing stock, the FMB points out the very high cost of the transfer of homes. Its submission will strike a chord in the hearts of all who have ever had to buy or sell a property.

It claims that the cost of conveyancing, estate agent's commission, stamp duty, survey fees and the other important expenses incurred in the process represents a real barrier for people contemplating home ownership.

It estimates that all these hidden but added costs amount to £30,000 for the purchase of a £15,000 house—rising to over £1,000 in the case of a £30,000 house.

In sales, the respective figures are £545 and £950—the latter figure being accounted for by estate agent's commission in terms of buying the £15,000 house, these additional costs would require an extra £9 a month in mortgage payments.

In the case of a £30,000 house the figure would be double that. A Government investigation into some of the charges, such as those of solicitors and estate agents, is taking place but the Government imposes its own burden. Although no stamp duty is payable on the purchase of a £15,000 house, some £450 is due on the £30,000 one.

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Unit trusts

Who are the unitholders—what do they think?

To how many unit trust management groups—and writers on the subject, too, for that matter—are unitholders merely a set of statistics, rather than individuals? It is an easy trap to fall into. There is no legal requirement for a management group to meet its investors—unlike a public company with its annual general meeting.

Target Group, however, has made a greater effort than most to get to know its unitholders. Besides launching a magazine for them it started a series of conferences in 1966. It even had a panel of unitholders as part-time advisers to one fund.

The conferences were dropped a couple of years ago, but now Target has reactivated them. It invited its unitholders and bondholders in Greater London to a one-day session on Wednesday.

Some 190 investors turned up for the fun. Predictably, it being a working day, the majority were either women or retired men and many of the women were widows who had inherited units from their husbands. This rather unrepresentative spread made for a certain similarity in investments—Target's Preference Share units, currently yielding 11.3 per cent, were the clear favourite.

But although the immediate requirement of most of the investors might be income, after a good (free) lunch—most were in fine voice for the afternoon forum, asking a wide range of questions.

"Would you buy investment trusts for income?" "What about life assurance if you are over 65 years old?" "What is the best investment for children?" "Which is best—a gift unit trust or a gift bond?" "Why have the Growth units been such a disappointing investment?" and "Why is there no Save As You Invest scheme run by the Target Building Society?"

All uncomplicated stuff, perhaps, but these are the kind of questions that interest unitholders. The views of some of the Target unitholders about their investment in unit trusts are given on the right.

Margaret Stone

Mrs Lorna Webster finds herself a unitholder for "quite fortuitous reasons". A friend's son is on the Target group staff and she wanted to help him. She bought units in the Commodity and Equity funds and a Managed Bond six months ago and is pleased with her investments. "She particularly likes the 'instant income', although her holdings are basically 'long-term for my children'."

Mrs Emma Irvine is a disappointed shareholder of F. W. Woolworth and believes that "it is safer to put money into unit trusts than into one society or share." She has been a unitholder for five years, after first having "looked into them." She can't remember which trusts she is in but adds that "the dividends are quite reasonable—particularly when compared with Woolworth's."

Mr John Snow chose to convert his shares into units in 1972 because "I don't want the worry of looking after them myself." He has Income and Growth units and is pleased with them. "They haven't done so well on paper," he says, "but they have done as well as I expected them to do."

Mrs Constance Barton cheerfully admits that she does not remember in which fund she holds 800 units. Although she has held them for 14 years it is her son who looks after them. She does, however, defend her position as an inactive unitholder. "They go up and they go down," she says. "It's no good selling them. If you make a profit, then you have to pay tax."

Mr Harold de P. Boardman echoes the view of many unitholders when he says that he is "trying to get a good return" on his money. "It's so difficult," he admits. He has been in unit trusts for six to seven years already and is a long-term investor. He has temporarily forgotten which trusts he holds, but confesses that he does not like watching them anyway. "It's too worrying."

Miss Dawn Brett, who used to put her savings into a building society, was given a day off work to come to the conference. She holds Preference Share units which she bought three years ago in response to a newspaper advertisement. "I think they are a good investment," she says. "They yielded 11.3 per cent when I bought them which was much better than I could do anywhere else."

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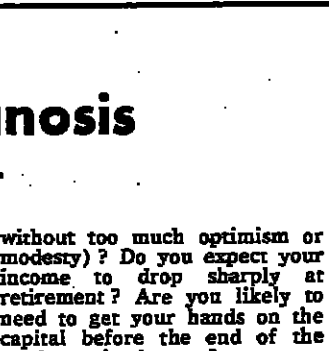
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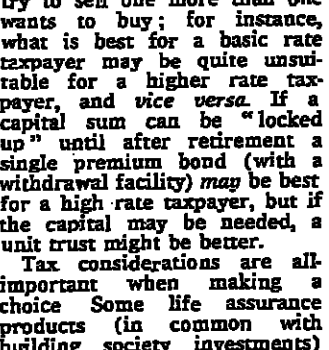
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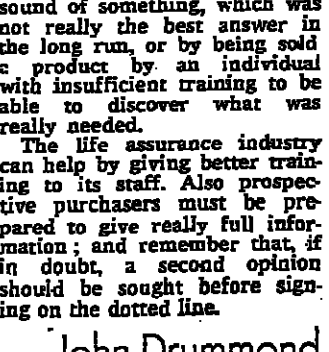
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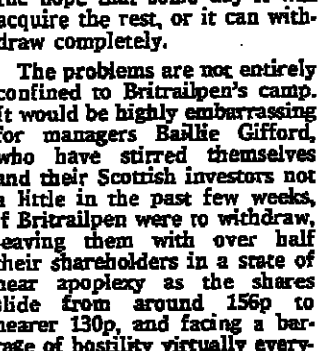
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Mrs Constance Barton cheerfully admits that she does not remember in which fund she holds 800 units. Although she has held them for 14 years it is her son who looks after them. She does, however, defend her position as an inactive unitholder. "They go up and they go down," she says. "It's no good selling them. If you make a profit, then you have to pay tax."



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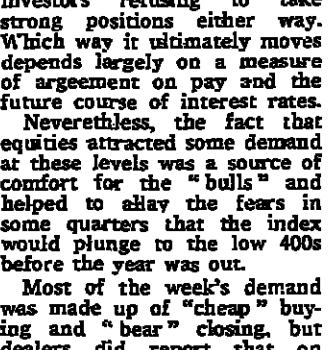
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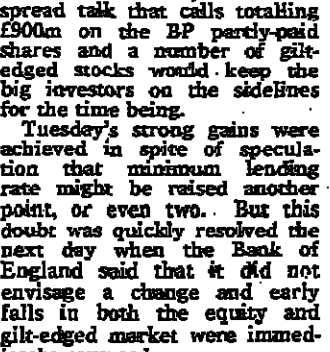
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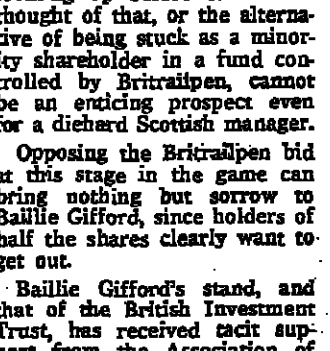
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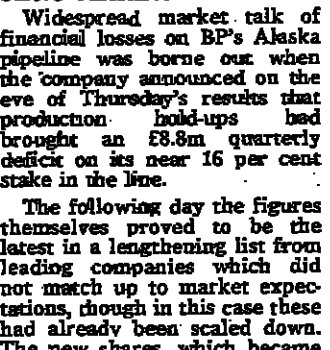
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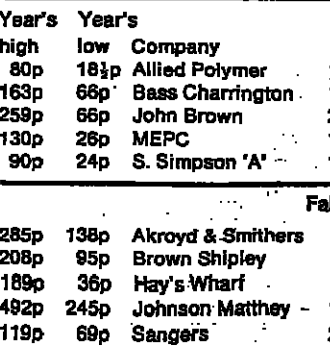
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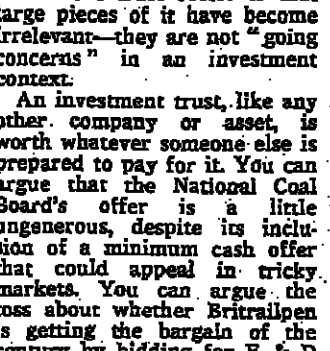
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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Foreign Exchange

quarter of the current year were encouraging in spite of the serious downturn in consumer spending. The group recently invested a further £500,000 in new equipment and attendant working capital.

Pre-tax profits at Unochrome International rose to £705,000 in the fifteen months to September 30 against £574,000 for the previous 12 months. Turnover has also shown a considerable increase, from £11.8m to £17m, however earnings per share have fallen from a previous 1.73p to 1.44p.

Glaxo sells its stake in Murp^hy Chem

Glaxo Holdings has sold all its shares in Murphy Chemical to Dalgety UK, a subsidiary of Dalgety. Murphy is engaged in the formulation, packing and distribution of agricultural pesticidal chemicals. Dalgety UK intends to continue to expand the existing business of the company. Murphy will be maintained as a separate accountable entity within the Dalgety chemical division.

If Highams, the Lancashire-based textile group can maintain the momentum of the first half, which saw pre-tax profits leap 50 per cent to £506,000, it should have no difficulty in beating last year's record of £922,000. Back in July Mr William Higham, chairman, said that the profits for the first

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	December 2 (day's rates)	December 2 31, 1979-1979
New York	\$1,815-825	\$1,820-810
Montreal	\$2,030-020	\$2,040-010
Amsterdam	4.35-34	4.34-35
Brussels	65.05-04	61.20-17
Copenhagen	11.17-16k	11.23-14k
Frankfurt	1.01-00	1.01-00
Lisbon	73.70-74.10k	73.70-74.10k
Madrid	142.50-50p	142.75-75p
Milan	1580-80p	1585-75p
Osaka	240-00	240-00
Paris	8.78-82	8.78-82
Stockholm	8.77-74	8.72-73k
Tokyo	441-40	441-40
Vienna	23.70-70k	23.70-70k
Zurich	3.87-86p	3.87-86p

* Effective exchange rate compared to December 31, 1979 was unchanged at 63.3.

Discount market

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Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 5%			
Last changed 25/11/77			
Clearing Bank Rate 5 1/4%			
Discount Rate 10 1/2%			
Weekend High 5 1/2%			
Week-Fix Price			
Treasury Bill (181)			
Buying	9 1/2	Selling	9 1/2
2 months	9 1/2	2 months	9 1/2
3 months	9 1/2	3 months	9 1/2
Prime Bank Rate (12 1/2)			
2 months	9 1/2	4 months	9 1/2
3 months	9 1/2	6 months	9 1/2
6 months	9 1/2	8 months	9 1/2
Local Authority Bonds			
1 month	7 1/2	7 months	9 1/2
3 months	7 1/2	9 months	9 1/2
3 months	7 1/2	9 months	9 1/2
4 months	7 1/2	10 months	9 1/2
5 months	7 1/2	11 months	9 1/2
6 months	7 1/2	12 months	9 1/2

CHI

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New York	18-19c disc	17-17c pres
Montreal	10-10c disc	05-15c disc
Amsterdam	10-10c disc	14-14c pres
Bonn	10-10c disc	
Buenos Aires	10-10c disc	5-15c disc
Copenhagen	11-11c disc	20-20c pres
Hankow	10-10c pres	20-20c pres
Lisbon	10-10c pres	20-20c pres
London	10-10c disc	400-400c disc
Madrid	10-10c disc	400-400c disc
Milan	10-10c disc	40-40c disc
Oslo	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
Paris	10-10c disc	15-15c disc
Stockholm	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
Vienna	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
Zurich	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
Canadian	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
50-50c	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
Expendable deposits (6%)	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
60-60c one month	10-10c disc	20-20c disc
70-70c six months	10-10c disc	20-20c disc

Secondary Mkt. ECO Rates (%)
 1 month 5-5 1/2 6 months 7-7 1/2
 3 months 7-7 1/2 12 months 9-9

Local Authority Market (%)
 3 days 5-5 1/2 3 months 7-7 1/2
 1 month 6-6 1/2 6 months 8-8 1/2
 2 months 6 1 year 9-9 1/2

Interbank Market (%)
 Weekend, Open 5-5 1/2 Close 5-5 1/2
 1 week 6-6 1/2 6 months 7-7 1/2
 2 weeks 6-6 1/2 8 months 7-7 1/2
 3 months 7-7 1/2 12 months 9-9

First Class Finance House Rates (Adv. Rate-%)
 3 months 7 6 months 8 1 year 9

Finance House Base Rate 5 1/2

Treasury Bill Tender
 Applications 12:01m Auctioned 2:00pm

Gold filed: am. 5158.5; an ounce; pm. 5163.
Kraus, Fred (new); non-resident. 5163-
1590-574; resident. 5164-1266 (574-574).
Sovereigns (new); non-resident. 5165-5
(528-574); resident. 5165-584 (528-574).

Births	224.39	received	74%
Last week	225.29	received	73%
Average rate	4.405%	Last week	4.285%
Next week	4.285%	repairs	\$2200

WESTERN MINING
 Western Mining told annual meeting that he expects first half operating profit will be materially less than for same period. It was not possible to predict full-year result at present. Net operating profit was A10.76m in the first half of last year and \$24.51m in the full year.

New York, Dec. 2.—The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell to three points lower most of the day and closed down 1.73 to 825.9.

However, advancing issues outnumbered decliners by more than 765 to about 630. Trading totaled 21,160,000 shares, down from 22,300,000 yesterday.

Walter D. Mount Gordon, chief of research at Dreyfus Institution, the most interesting feature of today's market was the "pulling back" of the big declines in the money supply anticipated.

The market's lackluster performance, Mr. Gordon said, indicates that market participants are no longer focusing on the money supply, but rather on the trade deficit and a possibly weak 1978 economy.

The emphasis has shifted from the monetary to the fiscal side, he said, and investors are beginning to think that "while the economy is still moving forward, it has lost its thrust."

[illegible]

New York, Dec. 3.—COPPA futures for the month ending Jan. 1, 1935, closed at 100.00, up 1.00 from the previous day. The market was active and prices were firm. The following table shows the closing prices for the month ending Jan. 1, 1935, and the previous day's closing prices for the month ending Dec. 31, 1934.

Month	Dec. 31, 1934	Jan. 1, 1935
Dec. 31, 1934	99.00	100.00
Jan. 1, 1935	100.00	101.00
Feb. 1, 1935	101.00	102.00
Mar. 1, 1935	102.00	103.00
Apr. 1, 1935	103.00	104.00
May 1, 1935	104.00	105.00
Jun. 1, 1935	105.00	106.00
Jul. 1, 1935	106.00	107.00
Aug. 1, 1935	107.00	108.00
Sep. 1, 1935	108.00	109.00
Oct. 1, 1935	109.00	110.00
Nov. 1, 1935	110.00	111.00
Dec. 1, 1935	111.00	112.00

The following table shows the closing prices for the month ending Jan. 1, 1935, and the previous day's closing prices for the month ending Dec. 31, 1934.

Month	Dec. 31, 1934	Jan. 1, 1935
Dec. 31, 1934	99.00	100.00
Jan. 1, 1935	100.00	101.00
Feb. 1, 1935	101.00	102.00
Mar. 1, 1935	102.00	103.00
Apr. 1, 1935	103.00	104.00
May 1, 1935	104.00	105.00
Jun. 1, 1935	105.00	106.00
Jul. 1, 1935	106.00	107.00
Aug. 1, 1935	107.00	108.00
Sep. 1, 1935	108.00	109.00
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Apr. 1, 1935	103.00	104.00
May 1, 1935	104.00	105.00
Jun. 1, 1935	105.00	106.00
Jul. 1, 1935	106.00	107.00
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[illegible]

ABN Bank	71 1/2
Barclays Bank	71 1/2
Consolidated Crdts	71 1/2
First London Secs	71 1/2
C. Moore & Co	71 1/2
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2
London Mercantile	7 1/2
Midland Bank	61 1/2
Nat Westminster	71 1/2
Rossminster Acc's	71 1/2
Shenley Trust	8 1/2
TSS	7 1/2
Williams and Glyn's	71 1/2

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 1% up to £25,000, 1 1/2% over £25,000. 3%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. 62-63 Threadneedle Street London The Over-the-Counter		
1476	77	
High	Low	Company
44	27	Airsprung Ord.
150	100	Airsprung 18% CUL
39	25	Armings & Rhodes
142	105	Bardon Hill
102	48	Deborah Ord
216	104	Deborah 17% CUL
147	120	Frederick Parker
118	45	Henry Sykes
58	36	Jackson Group
114	55	James Burrough
304	188	Robert Jenkins
24	8	Twinnock Ord
77	57	Twinnock 12% ULS
67	51	Unilock Holdings
87	65	Walter Lawrence

[illegible]

	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Divid	Yld %	P/E
42	—	—	4.2	10.1	7.8
LS 150	—	—	18.4	12.3	—
36	—	—	3.3	9.2	15.3
141	—	—	12.0	8.5	9.7
102	—	—	5.1	5.0	8.2
216	—	—	17.5	8.1	—
147	—	—	11.5	7.8	7.1
106	—	—	2.4	2.0	10.1
37	+1	5.0	6.6	5.6	6.1
108 1/2	+1	6.0	6.0	5.6	9.9
320	—	—	27.0	8.4	5.4
14	—	—	—	—	—
72	—	—	12.0	16.6	—
67	+1	7.0	10.4	10.4	8.3
87	—	—	6.4	7.4	6.4

	Bld	Ofrs
JCT S ^e 1987	50	96
U O Smaas 1987	98	98
Light Services U 1987	93	94
Wm Wm 1987	93	94
Middland Int S ^e 1992	100	100
NCS S 1987	03	96
Nat West 1986	105	104
Landlord DFC 7		
1984		
Nippon Fudoshan S 1951	98	98
Occidental S 1987	90	90
Occidental S 1951	100	100
Offshore Mining S		
Quebec S 1993	98	94
Rank Hovis R 1992	97	98
S J Reservoir, 1982	97	98
U 1986	101	101
Telcorford T 1986	98	98
Sturk Trust S 1987	100	100
	98	98

[illegible][illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

Another strong session

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Shares Indices for 1935-12-31 (base date June 2, 1964 official base date June 2, 1960) —

	Index No.	Yield %	Earn. Per Share	Index No.
Latest			1960	Previous
The Times Shares Indices				
Largest Firms	298.25	4.4	11.85	290.64
Largest Firms	298.25	6.13	11.19	294.94
Industrial	256.25	5.6	14.07	252.84
Capital Goods	223.10	6.25	14.25	220.26
Consumer Goods	216.77	6.77	11.45	214.19
Small Shares	181.75	6.13	10.99	179.72
Largest financial shares:				
Largest financial shares	232.58	5.56	—	229.70
Largest industrial and commercial shares				
Largest industrial and commercial shares	205.31	5.08	—	207.25
Company shares				
Company shares	206.94	5.94	13.88	211.62
Gold mining shares				
Gold mining shares	274.78	5.25	24.24	252.83
Industrial share				
Industrial share	256.25	6.29 ¹	—	254.82
Industrial share				
Industrial share	256.25	11.38 ²	—	252.82
Publications share				
Publications share	184.75	16.57 ³	—	184.75

1. average of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:—

	High	Low
All-Index	222.56 (1.08.77)	90.18 (1.12.74)
1971	222.56 (1.08.77)	161.53 (10.6.77)
1972	171.25 (1.08.77)	115.83 (12.6.77)
1973	171.25 (1.08.77)	115.83 (12.6.77)
1974	138.13 (9.8.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1975	138.13 (9.8.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1976	138.13 (9.8.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1977	138.13 (9.8.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1978	138.13 (9.8.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)

Parliament, December 2, 1977

Security for nuclear materials without eroding civil liberties

House of Commons

A handful of stolen plutonium if used in a nuclear device placed in Old Palace Yard, could create immediate radiation which would be lethal over sufficient distance to destroy Parliament and would also cause active material to envelope all Whitehall. Mr. Leo Abse (Pontypool, Lab) said opening a debate on nuclear power and the environment.

Mr. Abse moved: "That, faced with the hazards of nuclear terrorism set out in the Flowers report, this House calls upon the Government to give an assurance that no decisions will be made which would lead to the creation of a plutonium-based economy without full regard to the protection of existing civil liberties; and, apprehensive of the dangers of the creation of plutonium in large quantities in conditions increasing world unrest, calls upon the Government to make a more positive response to the initiatives of President Carter to bring a halt to nuclear proliferation."

He said that the Flowers report was surely the most fearful produced by this generation. It was uncomfortable with no soft reassurances. The Royal Commission poses for this nation the challenge which arises to life and liberty if we presume with excessive haste and overwhelming hubris to hustle energy into the plutonium economy.

If in future we move into these nuclear reactor measures, the manner projected by the Atomic Energy Authority, the amount of plutonium, the most noxious toxic nuclear known, must be of such quantity and require such transportation throughout the land and have so many people concerned with its use, that the present security arrangements for the existing storage of small quantities of uranium oxide at sites would be totally inadequate.

No responsible government would dare to relax security measures which have been devised to protect its citizens from the consequences of even a small quantity of plutonium falling into evil hands.

One of the major implications was that there would come into existence a new class of plutonium. A single serious incident would bring irresistible pressure to increase security measures to a degree which would be regarded, except in a totalitarian state, as intolerable, but which could not be avoided because of the extent of the dependence on plutonium for energy.

The growth of a specialised armed service to guard plutonium, particularly while it is in transit, was a cause for severe misgivings. Physical security of plutonium would not be enough. The Department of Energy's apology on the issue, in the form of a press notice, was not satisfactory. It said that surveillance would be extended only to those engaging in subversive, violent or otherwise unlawful activities.

What was the Government's answer to the charge that the fast-breeder nuclear programme put the nation's civil liberties at the mercy of an expanding armed force of nuclear police? The answer was that the Government was not to elect body, and to a secret service answerable effectively to an unelected body.

The Secretary of State's decision to call in the Windscale application was brave. He hoped that the House would lend a sympathetic ear to the request to publish Mr Justice Parker's report prior to a final decision.

His hon. friend (Mr. Harewood, Watlington, C) said the technical complexities and decisions on nuclear power were such that they were understood by very few people. He saw no alternative to society choosing and making responsible the best nuclear power could find to make the decisions.

If this country decided to forgo the nuclear alternative they must face clearly the fact that the plutonium which was going to run into the most major energy crisis.

Mr. Arthur Palmer (Bristol, North-East, Lab) said he hoped the Government would be encouraged by the further development of Britain's highly successful nuclear industry. They should do this by first of all giving clearance fairly soon for the two extra thermal reactor stations needed by the electricity supply industry. Secondly, they should make a declaration of intent fairly soon on the commercial fast breeder.

He understood there was to be a public inquiry on the commercial fast breeder. So be it. The Government should set a time limit to it. It should not be allowed to go on and on. It should be strictly a site planning inquiry. He hoped the Government would not give the impression that they were putting the fast breeder on trial.

Mr. Peter Scott (South-East Derbyshire, C) said that the Flowers report had a clear message that there were dangers in the plutonium route, but he thought the point out that despite those dangers, the choice is inevitably towards nuclear power. Including fast breeder reactors, which are not to go slowly and carefully.

Mr. Arthur Bleasdale (South Shields, Lab) said those members of the public who have a serious view of the benefits of the public, at inquiries such as Windscale, should receive financial help, possibly at the discretion of the chairman of the inquiry.

Mr. George Thompson (Galloway, Scot Nat) said that for Scots there was the fundamental question of control of their own land. The message was crystal-clear. They had

to become a state again, resume their national sovereignty, and then they would be able to resist the slogging of nuclear plant in Scotland.

Mr. Robin Cook (Edinburgh, Cent, Lab) said the consideration of nuclear proliferation would also have to be weighed in the balance. He would not doubt that if the West chose a nuclear energy supply based on a closed nuclear fuel cycle other countries would follow.

They would be encouraged to do so at the risk of accelerating nuclear weapon proliferation.

Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Lothian, C) said the fundamental question on which people had to be convinced was to what extent the country was faced with an energy gap. The Secretary of State for Energy would be vitally interested in all of the economic and social hazards involved in such a process.

Mr. Ronald Brown (Hackney, South and Shoreditch, Lab) said there was a strong indication that unless the Government were prepared to make decisions now, the country would be faced with a crisis in this technology the country was unlikely to have sufficient energy resources available by 1990.

Mr. Toby Llewellyn (Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, C) said it would be crazy not to develop the potential of the wind and wave sources of energy which would never run out—the sun, waves and tide.

There was a gap so great that they must use nuclear power. Nuclear energy was a fact of life. The country had to accept that. Mr. Tom King (Oxford, Lab) said opposition to nuclear energy (Bridgwater, C) said opposition should be kept on a purely technical basis. The Government were slow to accept that it needed to be pursued actively.

What was happening to the fast-breeder nuclear development into waste disposal which was promised by the Government on May 27? That also needed to be pursued with vigour.

There was a case for proceeding with one domestic plutonium committee. The Government had accepted that of that was bedevilled with important qualifications. It must not be the place of the House to consider the merits of energy and it must not form a commitment to a continuing programme of nuclear development.

It should not proceed until there had been a public inquiry. The Government had accepted that. The Secretary of State for Energy (Bristol, South-East, Lab) said if decisions were to be controlled by unelected bodies, it was essential that all the information available must be published. It was easy to say that, to mislead the public, to mislead the public.

In considering such difficult questions, everyone was worth listening to. For example, to think that everyone working in civil nuclear power disregarded nuclear safety was a mistake. The nature of the debate, the argument and the sense of moral conviction that existed on both sides.

Mr. Harewood (Mr. Harewood, Watlington, C) said he was sensible about it. We are choosing between a wide range of possible scenarios with a huge range of consequences. It is not that it would be a great pity if we polarized this argument. There are a wide range of options.

The House should not abandon basic economic criteria of seeking to get the best value for money for the community and not over-invest in things which might not be the wisest course. They had to make a decision. The House should not be in a position where they should absorb the nuclear issues into the centre of energy policy. The Government should be aware of the consequences of the nuclear issues. There were problems in the nuclear area and one was the safety factor. There were safety issues which were put to the nuclear inspectorate and had to be looked at carefully by them. There were three major areas of concern. One was the safety factor. There were safety issues which were put to the nuclear inspectorate and had to be looked at carefully by them.

As regards security, on the one hand a minister had to protect the public and on the other hand it was in such a way as to provide a credible deterrent against an attack on the country without leading to a situation where acceptable levels of civil liberty were eroded.

On this he could only give the House his own view. He was advised that an increase in surveillance, in vetting, would not go above the normal level. A question which was raised was whether it was possible to permit a minister to control his environment. The minister himself was morally committed to the public. He was dependent upon high technology, was he creating a situation where what he was really vulnerable to? These were questions society must face and could not brush aside.

The fast breeder reactor research was going on at a fairly substantial scale. As regards security, on the one hand a minister had to protect the public and on the other hand it was in such a way as to provide a credible deterrent against an attack on the country without leading to a situation where acceptable levels of civil liberty were eroded.

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The debate was adjourned. House adjourned, 2 pm.

Law Report December 2 1977

Liability of solicitors in tort and contract

Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Another v Hett, Stubbs & Kemp (A Firm)

Before Mr Justice Oliver
[Judgment delivered November 21]
His Lordship held a firm of solicitors liable in tort for failing to register an option to purchase a farm, and also liable in contract, though more than six years had elapsed from the date when it ought reasonably to have been registered before action was brought. He was giving a reserved judgment in an action brought by Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Mrs Ann Green, as executrices, against Hett, Stubbs & Kemp, solicitors of Bristol, Lincolnshire, who had acted in relation to the option on behalf of the testator, the late Mr Geoffrey Green.

Mr Jeremiah Hettman, QC, and Mr Jonathan Parker for the plaintiffs; Mr R. A. Ganehouse, QC, and Mr Ian McCulloch for the defendants.

His Lordship said that Mr Green owned Gravel Hill Farm of 300 acres in Thurston le Moor, Lincolnshire, which was let to his elder son, Mr Geoffrey Green, at a yearly rent of £900. In March, 1961, it was agreed that the farm should be sold to a company, which was to have an option to purchase at £75 an acre, exercisable during the next 10 years. To put that agreement into a regular and enforceable form, they visited the solicitors' firm of Hett, Stubbs & Kemp (now Hett, Stubbs & Kemp), which had previously acted for each of them individually. They saw Mr Aylmer Stubbs, a solicitor of great experience in conveyancing, who drew up a formal option agreement, for which the consideration paid by Geoffrey to his father was £1.

There was no shadow of doubt that it was the firm's duty to see that Geoffrey's interest was fully protected by registration of the option under the Land Charges Act, 1925. For some reason which was not stated, the firm failed to do so. The option was not registered until September, 1967, when it was registered by another member of the firm, Mr Kenneth Stubbs.

That was already too late since Walter Green, having repented of the gift of the option and consulted his solicitor, had written to the firm on August 17, 1967, stating that he had not intended to give the option and that it had not been registered and determined to defeat it by conveying the farm to his wife, Mrs Green, in 1967. The option was not registered until September, 1967, when it was registered by another member of the firm, Mr Kenneth Stubbs.

On July 21, 1972, finally negotiations for a settlement of the dispute having failed, Geoffrey Green brought an action for damages for breach of professional duty. The damages had been great, being £237,750. But the damage did not end there: Geoffrey's inability to acquire the freehold of the farm had increased the value of his subsequent death, that his widow and family had no security of tenure.

Geoffrey could not have discovered the omission to register the option, and it had to be inferred that he remained in ignorance of the fact, until late in 1967. Being a farmer and not a lawyer he probably had no idea of the purposes or necessity for registration.

To the claim now made the solicitors pleaded that any action was barred by the Limitation Act, 1939. A plea of limitation, most attractive at the best of times, was doubly unattractive when, in the present case, it was contended that the claim was barred not only before any damage occurred, but before the claim could, by any means, be discovered. His Lordship said that in no circumstances could the claim be barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant.

(2) Did the solicitors, apart from any contractual obligations, owe a general duty giving rise to a claim in tort, which duty was not barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant?

(3) On the footing of a solely contractual liability, was an action barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant?

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(3) On the footing of a solely contractual liability, was an action barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant?

(1) The House of Lords decision in *Henderson v. Merrett Syndicates Ltd* (1964) AC 465 established a general duty arising by law from a relationship described, however, as a contract, that was created, and that the decision was therefore inconsistent with the underlying reasoning in *Groom v. Aldrich* (1939) 1 KB 134 and the law which followed it.

(2) On the view his Lordship had taken and in the light of the opinions expressed in *Arson v. Arson* (1977) AC 409, particularly that of Lord Salmon, his Lordship would find it difficult to see how the claim could be barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant.

(3) His Lordship was not so compelled, because references in *Cook v. Sainsbury* (1957) 1 WLR 457 and *Henderson v. Merrett Syndicates Ltd* (1964) AC 465 to the contractual nature of the liability formed no necessary part of the ratio decidendi.

(4) Even if his Lordship were wrong about that, those cases were in conflict with the Court of Appeal's interpretation in the *Esso* case, by which his Lordship was bound.

(5) If his Lordship were not so bound, there was at least a conflict between the decision of the Court of Appeal, and his Lordship, having to elect which to follow, would follow what was said by the Master of the Rolls in the *Esso* case.

The instant case was one in which a Hedley-Burns relationship existed between Geoffrey Green and his solicitors, and the *Esso* case led to the conclusion that there was a liability in tort which was not barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant.

Where the solicitors also liable in contract? Assuming that the obligation owed by the solicitors to their client was a contractual one, it was necessary to consider what was the duty which was broken and when it was broken.

An action was brought by the claimant after the expiration of the appropriate period from the accrual of the cause of the action, i.e. from the occurrence of the breach. The question was whether the claim was barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant.

His Lordship said that Mr Green owned Gravel Hill Farm of 300 acres in Thurston le Moor, Lincolnshire, which was let to his elder son, Mr Geoffrey Green, at a yearly rent of £900. In March, 1961, it was agreed that the farm should be sold to a company, which was to have an option to purchase at £75 an acre, exercisable during the next 10 years. To put that agreement into a regular and enforceable form, they visited the solicitors' firm of Hett, Stubbs & Kemp (now Hett, Stubbs & Kemp), which had previously acted for each of them individually. They saw Mr Aylmer Stubbs, a solicitor of great experience in conveyancing, who drew up a formal option agreement, for which the consideration paid by Geoffrey to his father was £1.

There was no shadow of doubt that it was the firm's duty to see that Geoffrey's interest was fully protected by registration of the option under the Land Charges Act, 1925. For some reason which was not stated, the firm failed to do so. The option was not registered until September, 1967, when it was registered by another member of the firm, Mr Kenneth Stubbs.

That was already too late since Walter Green, having repented of the gift of the option and consulted his solicitor, had written to the firm on August 17, 1967, stating that he had not intended to give the option and that it had not been registered and determined to defeat it by conveying the farm to his wife, Mrs Green, in 1967. The option was not registered until September, 1967, when it was registered by another member of the firm, Mr Kenneth Stubbs.

On July 21, 1972, finally negotiations for a settlement of the dispute having failed, Geoffrey Green brought an action for damages for breach of professional duty. The damages had been great, being £237,750. But the damage did not end there: Geoffrey's inability to acquire the freehold of the farm had increased the value of his subsequent death, that his widow and family had no security of tenure.

Geoffrey could not have discovered the omission to register the option, and it had to be inferred that he remained in ignorance of the fact, until late in 1967. Being a farmer and not a lawyer he probably had no idea of the purposes or necessity for registration.

To the claim now made the solicitors pleaded that any action was barred by the Limitation Act, 1939. A plea of limitation, most attractive at the best of times, was doubly unattractive when, in the present case, it was contended that the claim was barred not only before any damage occurred, but before the claim could, by any means, be discovered. His Lordship said that in no circumstances could the claim be barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant.

(2) Did the solicitors, apart from any contractual obligations, owe a general duty giving rise to a claim in tort, which duty was not barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, if the claim was not discovered until after the date when the claim was first made known to the claimant?

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Chancery Division

Continuing nuisance

Masters v Brent London Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Talbot
[Judgment delivered Nov 22]
Where there is a continuing nuisance affecting the land, the person in possession of the land has a right to recover damages for the continuing nuisance affecting the land.

His Lordship gave judgment for Mr John William Masters, of Wendover Road, Epsom, Surrey, who had succeeded on his claim that a continuing nuisance, created by the roots of a lime tree planted by Brent London Borough Council on adjacent land, had caused damage to the foundations of his premises. He was awarded £1,333 damages in respect of the continuing nuisance affecting the land.

Mr Michael Harris for Mr Masters; Mr Ian Goldworthy for the council.

His Lordship said that the council accepted that the roots of the lime tree had caused the damage to the foundations of his premises. He was awarded £1,333 damages in respect of the continuing nuisance affecting the land.

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His Lordship said that the council accepted that the roots of the lime tree had caused the damage to the foundations of his premises. He was awarded £1,333 damages in respect of the continuing nuisance affecting the land.

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Country property

Property

DETACHED LUXURY SPLIT LEVEL EXECUTIVE VILLA IN KILLEARN

—a small village, 16 miles south-west of Glasgow, 25 minutes drive to Glasgow, 35 minutes drive to Edinburgh. Main bedroom with fitted wardrobe, bathroom with 4-piece suite, kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. Lower level—large lounge with fireplace, dining room with built-in dining table, and kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. 25 minutes drive to Glasgow, 35 minutes drive to Edinburgh. Main bedroom with fitted wardrobe, bathroom with 4-piece suite, kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. Lower level—large lounge with fireplace, dining room with built-in dining table, and kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher.

OFFERS AROUND £40,000 Telephone 0569 90547 or 061-922 3440 now.

LAKE DISTRICT CUMBRIA

Large Victorian house, 16 miles south-west of Glasgow, 25 minutes drive to Glasgow, 35 minutes drive to Edinburgh. Main bedroom with fitted wardrobe, bathroom with 4-piece suite, kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. Lower level—large lounge with fireplace, dining room with built-in dining table, and kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. 25 minutes drive to Glasgow, 35 minutes drive to Edinburgh. Main bedroom with fitted wardrobe, bathroom with 4-piece suite, kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher. Lower level—large lounge with fireplace, dining room with built-in dining table, and kitchen with built-in oven, refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher.

LEGAL NOTICES

Weekend

SHOPAROUND

Sheila Black

■ Casa is a mail order house, and a very good one, too. Not always the cheapest despite periodic special offers and bargains, but not the most expensive. It sells in an original and useful manner by publishing the Casa magazine, with big illustrations and full descriptions of the merchandise so that you read regularly about new things but can readily keep records of the older ones. It mixes original and gimmick lines with a great many thoroughly useful ones and is largely for the homemaker.

Besides the Christmas tree holder I told you about, some recent lines have included self-watering plastic troughs to hold pot plants—smart enough in white and a great relief to those who kill their plants with too much or too little water. The trough in

the base is filled by means of a tube that runs to the top of the trough and a suitable wick keeps the moisture seeping up to the plants. Made by Sankey, strong and easy to wipe clean, the trough is £2.95 (plus 85 pence p/p) and the plants stay moist enough for about a week after the reservoir is empty.

Another original Casa gift is the perfume pen that is also a pendant in either gold or silver colour finish, hanging on a gold-coloured chain. Keep the top of the pen full of your favourite perfume (£4.20 including postage). A copy of Casa magazine will come to you free when you buy anything but you can send 20p for a sample of the latest copy to inspect the possibilities. The full address is Casa Magazine International House, 85 Great North Road, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5EH.

■ Birds give inordinate pleasure to so many people, and especially to the sick, elderly, lonely and disabled. Not everybody has a garden but pretty well everybody has a window sill on to which a peasant bird feeding table can be clamped like the mincer used to be clamped to old-fashioned kitchen tables. This particular one has a wide international market, is strongly made, well coated in white plastic and can be one-way or two-way versions. The tray, of high-impact polystyrene, is about 12 by 6½ inches and the feeder can easily be unclamped and re-

moved for washing when the weather becomes really filthy. The two-way model is £3.80 plus 60p, while the original one-way version from which it was developed is £4.20 plus 60p. By the way, even the single tray is in two parts, one on either side of the upright framework, so that you can put scraps or seed on one side and water on the other. I can think of few nicer gifts for young or old at home much of the day. With perhaps a nice little paperback on British birds (or foreign if sending abroad). The address is Kings House, Nadderwater, Exeter EX4 2LD.

■ There is some very expensive but rather irresistible stationery in Harrods just now. A pack of personal invitation cylinders is really lovely for the special party. A transparent box contains 10 silver tubes, just over seven inches long, some gilded, parchment-coloured invitation letters (too big to be cards), a little bag of square golden sequins (which the maker calls confetti) some adhesive-backed labels for the silver cylinder. Write your invitation, sprinkle with the confetti—which seems to cling well—and roll the message into the cylinder. Label it and post, hoping it will arrive undamaged but, since it is just about one inch in diameter and fairly tough, it should be all right. The pack costs £9.50 and you ask for The Confetti Invitation Proclamation set. Postage is £1.13.

Then there is an Executive Pass the Buck slip pad, marked with numerous brief messages like "Review and Summarize", "Destroy before reading".

Nearly all the messages are jokes but some actually might apply quite seriously, such as "Return", "Retain", or "Route". Slots for names and dates, plus space for signature, would enliven normal office routines. In smart brown lettering on warm beige ground, these slender action slips cost £3.80 for goodness knows how

many sheets but the pad is just over inches thick. Add £1.13 for postage outside Harrods free delivery area. The Adult Letter Pad has 25 fold-and-seal cards, measuring about 11 by 8½ inches. Ornate in white with blue borders, the large card carries a number of message like "owe you a letter/apology/etc. realize what a fool I've been" and suchlike. The pad is £3.80 plus 49 pence p & p. A really original and delightful gift, if costly, is the Tsiao Liu Chiu Tea Brick, made of quality China tea compressed in a die powered by oxen. It is thus made into a brick with sharply cut decoration on one face of the brick. Such tea bricks have been used for more than 2,000 years as convenient ways of transporting tea and they even became bartering currency at one time. When wanted, the tea brick can be crushed to use as tea leaves or, I suppose, one could break off pieces. Apart from the somewhat architectural but charming decoration, there is a Chinese inscription reading "Manufactured by Tsiao Liu Chiu Tea Brick Factory China Tea Industry Company". Decorative yet smelling of China tea, and one of the really original gifts I have seen. Some people varnish them for perpetual ornaments but that must kill the tea smell which would probably fade with time anyway. They cost £4.50 each to personal shoppers only.

These are just two from a range of leather-bound glass bottles at Bourne and Hollingsworth in maroons, golden tans, reds, greens and the more familiar Florentine colours. They are big, about 10 and 11 inches high, terribly imposing, rich-looking and stunningly unusual. Prices of these are £7.50 for the shorter bottle with the ball stopper and £13.50 for the second, square-shouldered one. These are only two of a range of leather bottles, decanters and barrels on the ground floor, under Leathergoods. Prices run from under £3 to about £17. Bourne and Hollingsworth is halfway between Oxford Circus and Tottenham Court Road, on the corner of Berners Street. Most of the leather is Italian and there are not often many of one kind, since colours, shades and even shapes can vary a good deal. But, if you do not find exactly these, you will find one you do like.



■ Two teenage pendants for boys and girls are fun at Woolworths. The first is a miniature skateboard pendant, complete with moving wheels, on a 22-carat gold-plated chain. As for the board itself, the underside and wheels are gold-plated but the platform is in plain or multi-coloured enamel. The price is only 99p, which makes it either a long-term joy to teenagers or a joke present for anyone. The other pendant is for anyone but would be loved by the young. It is a silver-plated bullet about 2½ inches long, dangling from a long chain. Remove the bullet's nose and you have a ballpoint pen with which you can write without taking off the chain. Many standard refills fit the pen and the whole pendant is just £1.49 from larger Woolworths branches.

■ Gardenwork is an old favourite of mine, ever since they started selling curved jungle knives, machetes and the like for overgrown patches. The old jungle-type tools still sell all over the world, even to the places where they were originally designed and used and where they are no longer to be found.

Gardenwork are altogether very good for the old-fashioned tools which cannot be equalled by modern developments for a good many jobs. The tough box with the blade at right angles to the shaft and the pronged equivalent of same are about £8.25 plus 75p carriage. A strong, pointed shovel beats a flat-bladed spade for much excavation work in frost-bard gardens (£9 plus £1). Mattocks will deal with taking up big stones, paving or packed earth (£10 plus £2). There is one tilting weapon with a forked tip, carrying two sharp, strong points to break up hard ground, remove suckers from deep down, and cope with all manner of tough garden chores.

Architects especially welcome these tools, and Gardenwork is now working with Age Concern as well as with disabled bodies to develop tools especially for them so please do let them know of any relevant personal experiences or discoveries about gardening from wheel-chairs, unbending positions and the like. Their Fast-gun Spray bottle has dozens of uses since it can fit to the hose to mix solutions with the running water, making weed-killing, car-washing, lawn-feeding, spraying and such quite simple.

A range of trolleys called Ease-load is worth seeing or reading about in leaflets. A simple shopping version, a

heavy-duty model and a de luxe model cost from £9.50 to £15.50, and the latter has a third wheel. Shopping bags can be supplied at £3 extra to convert the all-purpose trolley and there are strong hook attachments. The lightweight models fold up when not carrying fertilizer to the other end of your land or trundling around the local supermarket.

One of the latest lines is a log loader, woven from old English willow to a traditional design of deepness and strength, made by craftsmen for 1,000 years or more. These are the baskets one used to see out in the fields when more crops were hand-harvested and they are wonderful for toys, laundry, general junk and anything you fancy. I have a forerunner in my bathroom, filled with indoor gardening tools, pots of all sizes, netting, seed packets, sprays, bags of ready-mixed potting composts and the class I slip on to garden on my balcony. Why the bathroom? Because there is space, it is next to the bedroom, which is open to the balcony, and my bedroom, bathroom and balcony are practically plant forests. I hate to tell you how little mine cost me 17 years ago, but the Gardenwork willow basket is now good value at £7 plus £1 carriage. It measures about 16 inches deep by some 18 inches diameter but, being hand-made, measurements cannot be exact. It should hold some 40lb of logs according to the cutting sizes and it looks really good by the hearth.

Gardenwork accepts Access and Barclaycard, despatches promptly and discounts some objects for orders of two or three. The address is The Dell, Catherine de Barnes, Solihull, West Midlands, and leaflets are available.

■ I honestly cannot think why anyone should want a musical telephone but, my instinct being to hope that I shall sometimes actually get a little peace from telephones, I could be prejudiced about these indispensable instruments. So, for the record, let me tell you that you can buy music boxes with telephone rests in olive, red or green to match the popular phone colours. While your caller holds on, pass his or her time with gentle music. The price is £4.99 including VAT, postage and all, and the address is Middlesex Mail Orders, 43 Nibthwaite Road, Harrow HA1 1TB, Middlesex.

■ The first of the moisture meters came from Diplex Instruments many years ago. Battery-powered, it lighted up for wet or dry, with varying permutations of the two lights and their brightness or otherwise to guide on in-between soil conditions. It has a five-inch probe so should discover the moisture content around the roots of most plants (there being a 17-inch probe for professional growers). Too many plants die of over-watering and the state of the topsoil is no guide to the wetness around the roots which can thus be suffocated.

Diplex Electronic Soil Moisture Indicator is in almost all gardening shops and departments at around £7.50, sometimes a shade less. If you cannot track one down, write to Diplex at PO Box 172, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 1BX. They can send you lists of a surprisingly large range of instruments such as frost predictors, greenhouse moisture meters, both ordinary and unusual, freezer thermometers, indoor-outdoor thermometers, barometers, whole weather stations and so on. Their lines vary from the cheap but handy and serviceable to a lovely nautical range of solid brass. The movements are as reliable as the faces are attractive. By the way, plant treatment advice goes with the moisture meter pack.



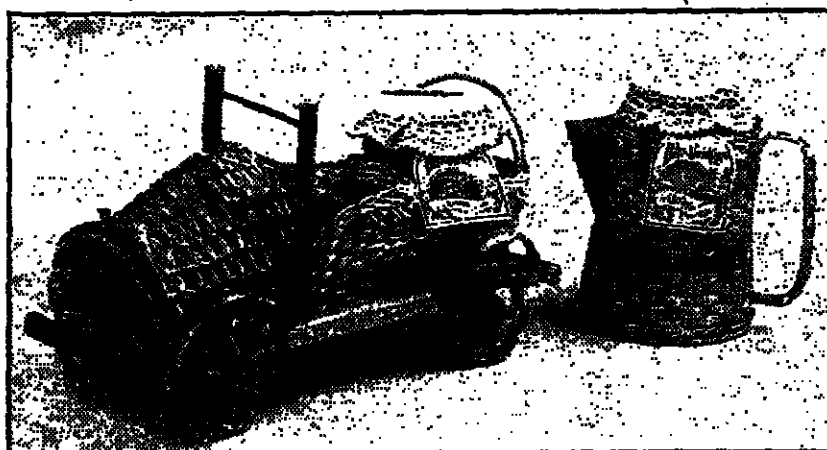
This year, other moisture meters have come into being. I have not yet had a chance to try one that intrigues me greatly, but I do know the firm selling it and can testify to their integrity. This one has a rounded head and twin probes plus an inbuilt "talking" system, and it is sold with a translation booklet for such noises.

The noises are coughs, clicks, hiccupping clicks, purring and even a shrill cry. You do not water until you come across a slow cough. If it then clicks slowly, it is telling you the plant needs fertilizer. A fast click may indicate none or just a very little and a cry means that the poor plant is badly over-fertilized and you might

save it only by repotting in some dry, unfertilized earth, unless the roots are already rotted by the overdose. The purring sound should console you when all is well. This Plant Communicator is £7.50 plus 50p p/p from Craven House, Wotton, Guildford, Surrey and I think I cannot resist one for my armies of plants. It is battery-run.

Then we have the Instamatic water tester, drawn for you here. It has a larger head than the others and a flexible lead to the probe so that you can hold the reader-window near you but stretch out to a slightly distant plant. It needs no batteries at all and the reading tells you all. It sells at about £10.95 from many gardening

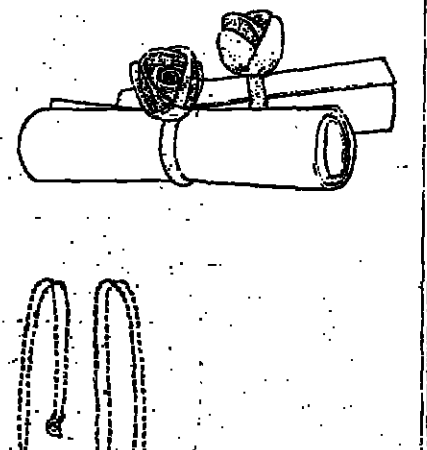
departments in larger stores, especially at Selfridges and Heals, and at Syon Park Gardening Centre. A booklet with it gives the guide to what different plants need. It is distributed by Clifford Goodale, 161 Russell Court, Woburn Place, London WC1H 0LR, who might be persuaded to supply if you cannot find local stockists.



■ Some enchanting gift products have been made up of Thai silk, like the two table-napkin rings shown here. The bands are of rolled, stitched silk with silken, handmade roses sewed on them. Buy them at £8.50 for eight from Selfridges, Macdonald of Walton Street, Beattie's of Wolverhampton and Solihull and some other stores and gift shops. Harvey Nichols/Selfridges would be good places to find matching Thai silk spectacle cases (single at £4.50 and double at £5.50 which is a good idea since some people carry two pairs). Jewelry rolls for travelling are about £11 and there are some really delightful photo frames in single, double or triple. Very attractive is a gift set at £10 including spectacle case, cosmetic bag

and tiny Kleenex holder, cigarette case or keyring. All in Thai silk and daintily. I also liked the tiny silver scent bottles of fine beaten Thailand silver on necklet chains. They cost £17.95 each but are sparsely stocked so buy direct, adding 20p postage, from Markham Hogarth Designs, 2 Russell Gardens, Mews, London, W14. The silver bottles are at Heals/Selfridges, a little shop called Spree at Beaufort on the Isle of Wight, and Pipaluk at Oxford Craft Centre.

Among the nuttier items are quaintnesses in wicker at Bantall's of Kingston upon Thames and Ealing. All made from recipes by Mrs Bridges of Upstairs, Downstairs are the break-fast marmalades, chutneys and short breads packed into wicker baskets shaped like watering cans (£1.99 plus 95p postage), a vintage car at £3.65 plus 95p, and a jug at £1.79 (95p). To tell the truth, there is an Upstairs, Downstairs distributor in Scotland, and readers of this page will know, and Mrs Bridges does make preserves for them.



Bantall's Christmas display is terrific and do not forget that there are also stores at Worthing and in Mary Lee of Tunbridge Wells as well as at Bracknell, all with lots of parking spaces near by a fetish with Rowan Bantall who has invested much of his money and his time to ensure that shoppers' cars are catered for. The Bracknell store is as well served as Kingston and very good at that.

■ If you have £157.84 to spend on a Christmas pudding, then go ahead and do just that, from Stuart Devlin, jeweller of fame and skill. The price includes VAT and, when I admit to there being VAT, you will have come to realize that the pudding must be made by Stuart, and that it must be precious. It is an oxidized silver pudding, just two inches high, round and plump like the old bomb-shaped pudding. Enamelled holly and gilt plate with openwork rim add to the realism. Open the pudding and a dozen little charms are there, like a wish-bone, pig, parcel, horseshoe, button etc. Very adorable, very collectable.

Also from Devlin is a little carol box in silver gilt and about three inches tall. Inside there are two little silver-gilt tea clippers and one plain silver ship, their sails billowing from the delicate masts, all "sailing" on a blue enamelled sea. These carol boxes will be in two limited editions only, of which this is already the seventh and each runs to only 500 pieces. The price of the carol box is £109.60. Stuart Devlin is at 90/92 St John Street, London EC1 (01-253 5350).

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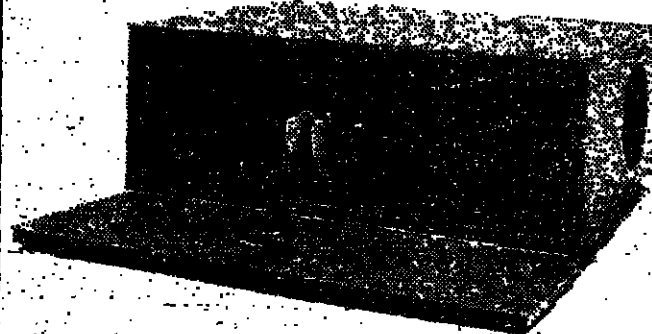
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Two Models:

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

appears on **PAGE 23**

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New & second-hand pianos. We have a large stock of quality pianos for sale at competitive prices.

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Recommended price: £186.70 PRICE

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Look at these CANDY features:

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day, mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

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ALLISON—On December 2nd, at St. Mary's, London, a son, David, to Mr. and Mrs. David Allison.

BIRTHS
MCCARTHY—On November 20th, at St. Mary's, London, a son, David, to Mr. and Mrs. David McCarthy.

BIRTHS
WILLIAMS—On November 12th, at St. Mary's, London, a son, David, to Mr. and Mrs. David Williams.

BIRTHS
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DEATHS
CHAMPION—On December 1st, at St. Mary's, London, a son, David, to Mr. and Mrs. David Champion.

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in North Devon ...

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... you see the Christmas spirit ...

WANTED
... for the Christmas season ...

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Churchill Travel's programme ...

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FATHER, who have I not come to ...

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS
ALSO ON PAGE 23

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Our brochure featuring ...

PORTUGAL WARM WINTER SUNSHINE
In Colours of Portugal ...

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INTERNATIONAL LOW-COST TRAVEL

PRE-CHRISTMAS SKIING
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PORTUGAL COSTA
Five-star luxury ...

FLY THE SPECIALISTS
TO NARROW ...

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Visit friends and relatives ...

THE GREEK ISLANDS
A score of more different ...

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SAVE £20+
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TAKE A CHRISTMAS FLY/CRUISE YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

FLY/CRUISE YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
8 days fly/cruise availability ...

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8 days fly/cruise availability ...

FOR SALE
GREAT WINE SALE

GREAT WINE SALE
ALL STOCKS MUST GO

GREAT WINE SALE
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ANIMALS AND BIRDS
GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES

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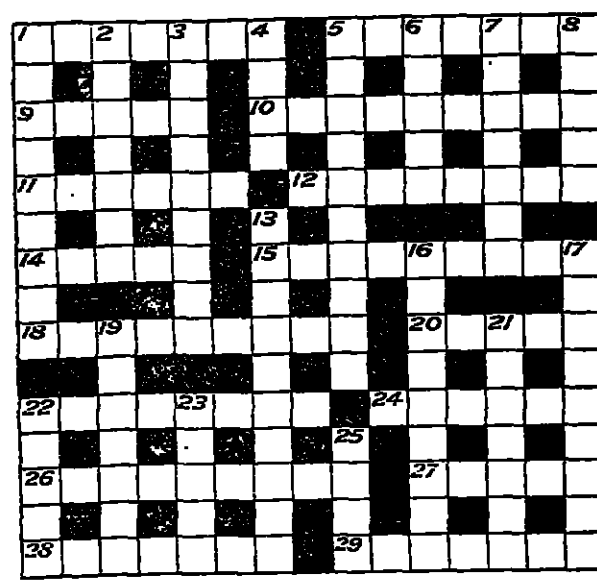
ANIMALS AND BIRDS
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ANIMALS AND BIRDS
GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,775



ACROSS
1 Worker was returning home to Hamlet (7)
2 Of Mice and Men was written shortly after these (7)
3 Statement by West, saying, leaving a lot to be desired? (12, 3)
4 Jack up one of these (4, 5)
5 Young Butlers in lowest form? (6)
6 Glipha's Canadian goal? (7)
7 One taking Cassius' part more than Caesar? (5)
8 Size showing how US motor industry is doing? (9)
9 Oppose introduction of jet-motors (9)
10 Half of wine comes from an elder tree (5)
11 Sheaf of wheat (8)
12 Unbelievable ending may be swallowed (6)
13 Performance of low-grade US actresses (9)
14 Man affected by Turner, the artist—girl, too (5)
15 Stride half of record, and a bit more (4, 5)
16 It divided we fall—Adam's (4)
17 One way and another, I'll stop (10)
18 In place of St Augustine, a bear? (5)
19 Not the army one was regularly in (7)
20 Brief her to take legal action (5)
21 Squad new layout round river for boats (10)
22 Soldier makes defensive move on board (9)
23 End of bay where the sailor is wrecked? (5, 4)
24 Dreadful to see so many engulfed in a minute (7)
25 Collect information to get rid of a barrister? (7)
26 A for that's practical if non-U (5)
27 Trick using, for example, odd anagram (5)
28 State of Connecticut, a heavenly part (4)
29 Solution of Puzzle No 14,774



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
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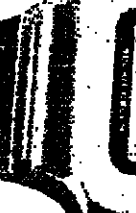
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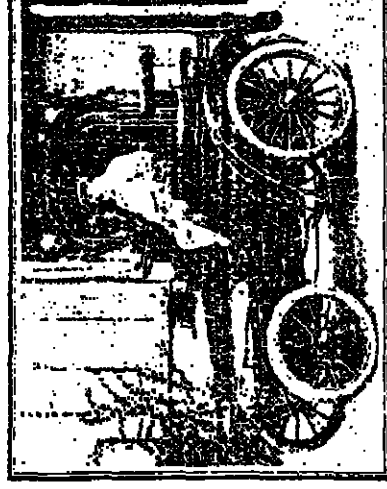
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Christmas Bazaar

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Recipe :

7½ Serré 3 to 10
6 oz. fine biscuit crumbs (short cake or digestive);
2½ oz. butter;
15 fl oz. double cream ;
1 tablespoon brandy;
3 teaspoon vanilla essence;
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pink vanilla ice cream.

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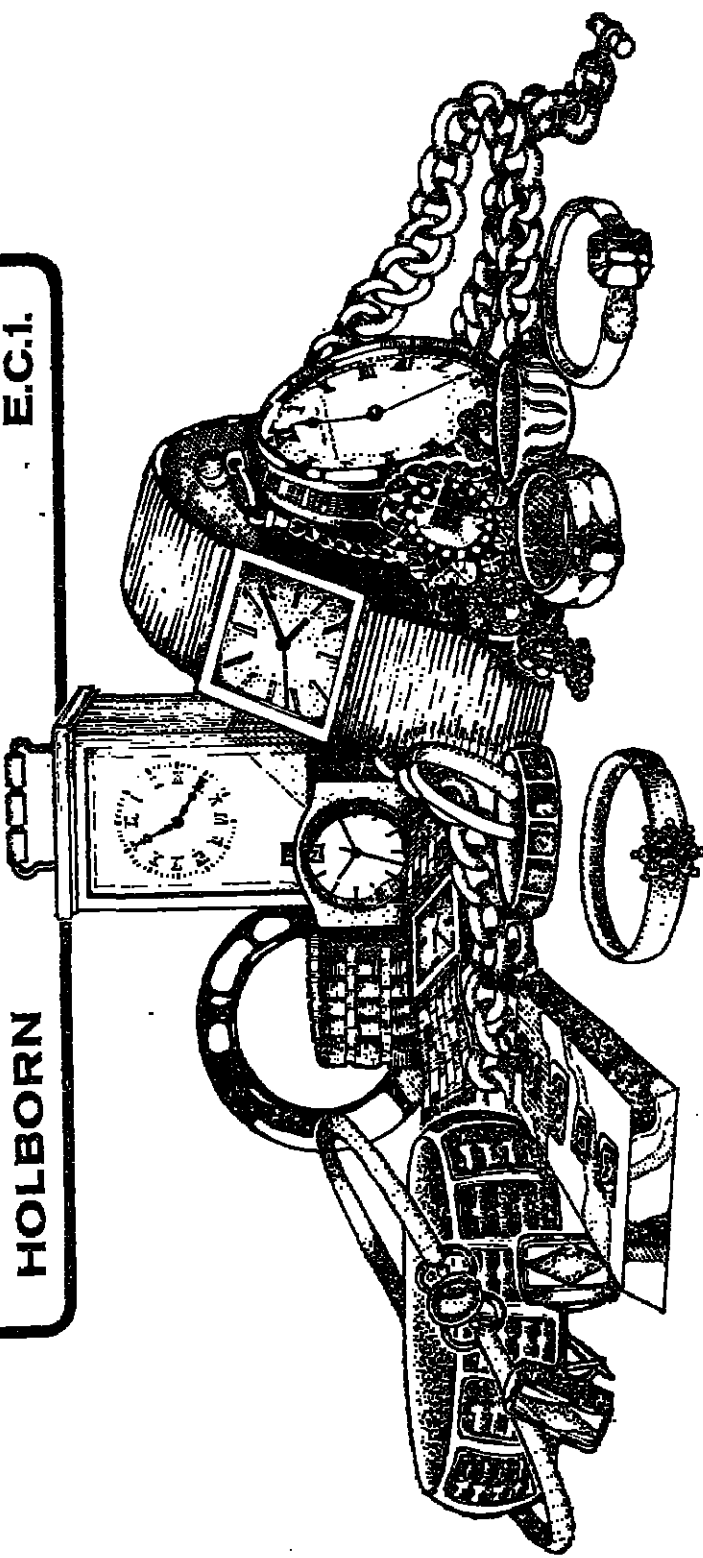
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the cone on a table lamp and the light will shine through the holes. Make a pyramid tree of balsam wood or heavy card. Decorate it with bands of red wool wound round and round. Use tiny red baubles. Create an evergreen tree of rough green carding string or brilliantly coloured satin ribbons.

An edible tree. The classic croquembouche, a mountain of tiny eclairs glazed with white icing, is a masterpiece of a Christmas buffet table. Decorate it with glacé cherries and leaves of angelica.

Plant a festive table with miniature fold-away trees in green and red tissue paper. These, about six inches high, cost 80p each. They also come in white and rainbow versions in a variety of sizes.

A nutty tree to make. Cover a cone of cardboard with walnut and holly or velvet ribbons. Stick the decorations firmly with a strong connective adhesive.

Make a well-mounted tree for the hall. Use folded card (cut in a series of 1/2 inch sections) and stick a pattern of zigzag pinholes in the card for a light to shine through. Fill the base with small presents hung on small presents. A practical tree for handy people to make of blackboard. Leave the wood in its natural state or paint or stain with brightly wrapped presents hung from cuphooks.

Make a starkly modern tree with folded card and iron wire. Then fold the wire into a series of triangles to form triangular holes. Stick a tiny glass ball on each resulting shelf. Balance

Plant a real tree in a white tub and dress it all in white with swags of miniature paper chains and spiky coloured paper. Follow the colour scheme of the presents in green and white too.

Make a floral tree with fresh or artificial flowers. First make a cone of chicken wire. Then fold the wire into a series of triangles to form triangular holes. Make the flowers go farther by filling the gaps with twigs of tissue paper.

Make a starkly modern tree with folded card and iron wire. Then fold the wire into a series of triangles to form triangular holes. Stick a tiny glass ball on each resulting shelf. Balance

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Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar is a feast of ideas for decorations, delicious drinks and sweet things to make and a whole page of children's holiday activities

Writers: Shona Crawford Poole, Agnes Whitaker and Philippa Toomey. Illustrations: Karen Daws. Photographs: Kulon Chung.

Two's a Mel... Tactics... Econom...